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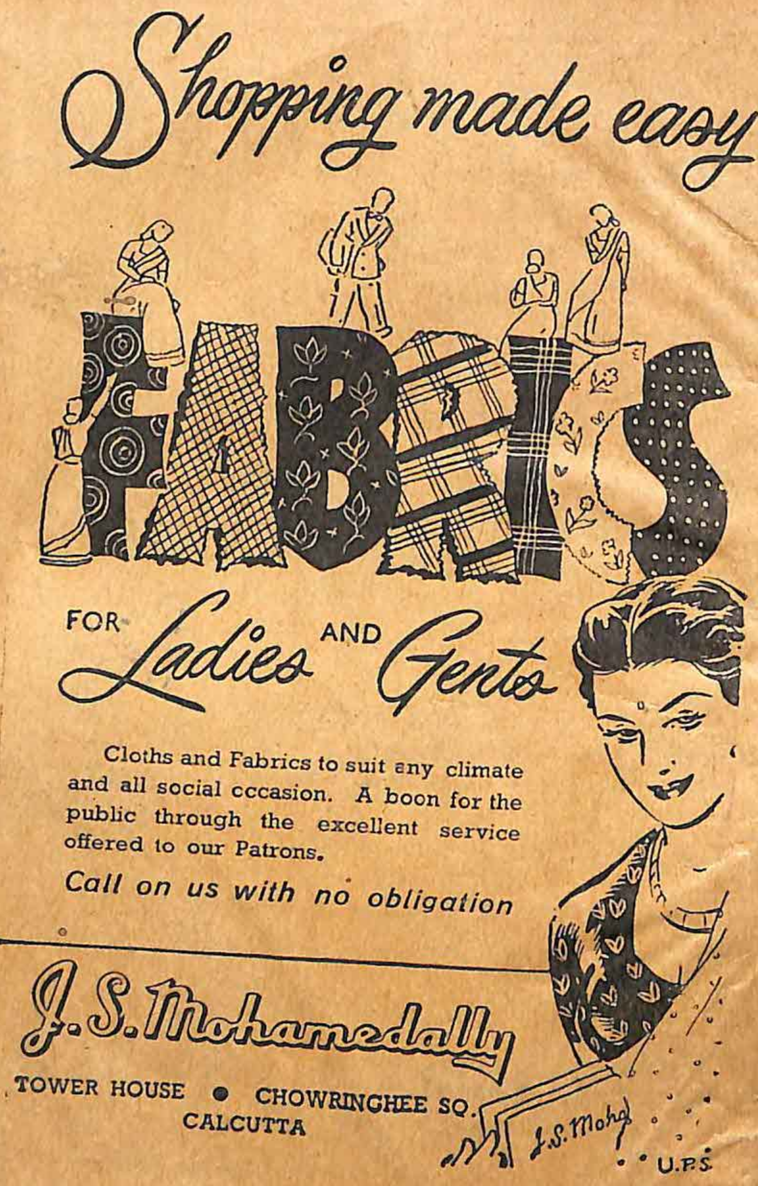

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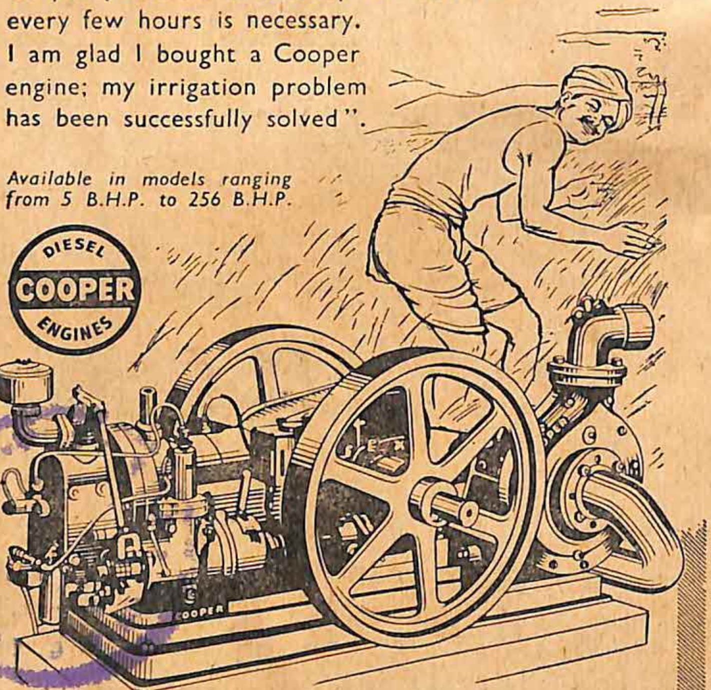

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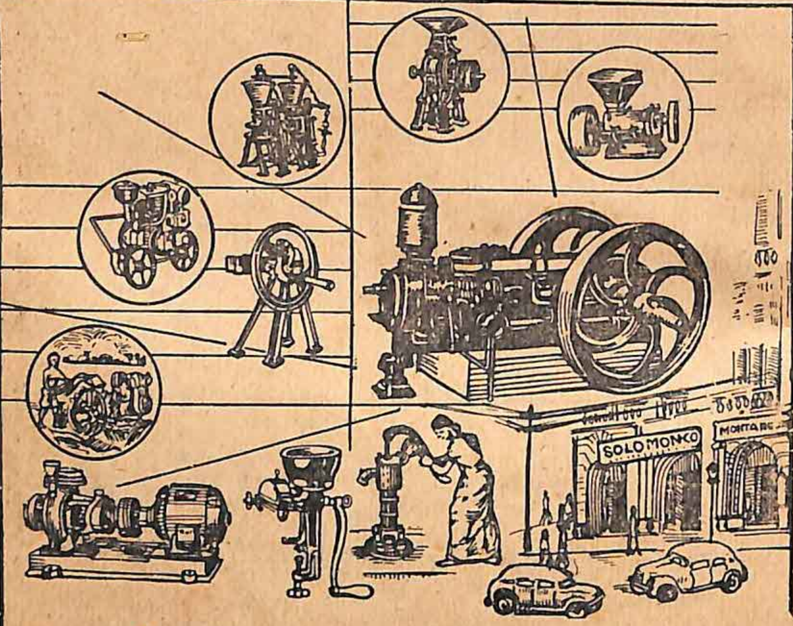

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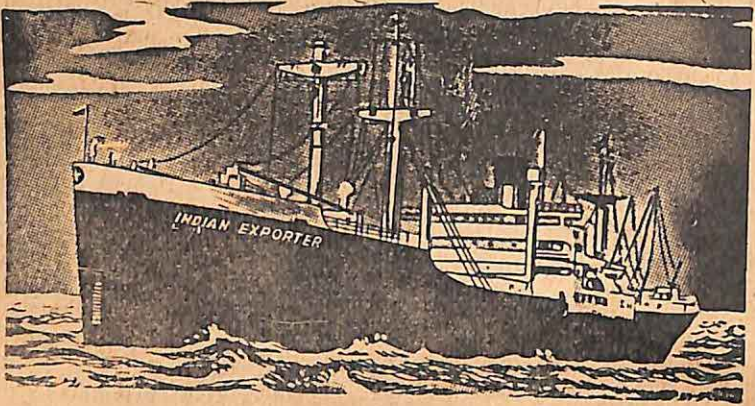

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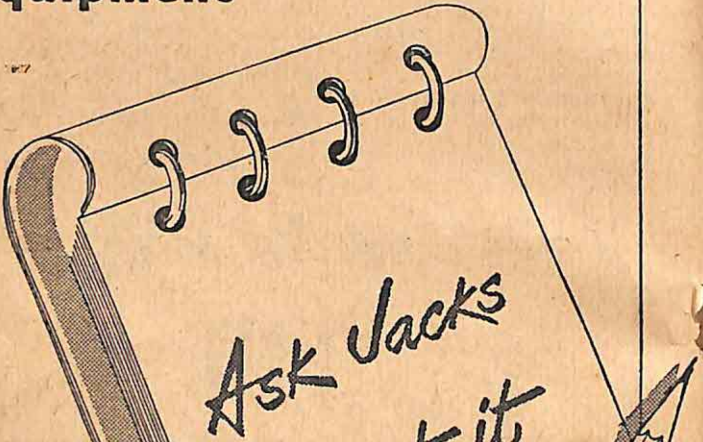

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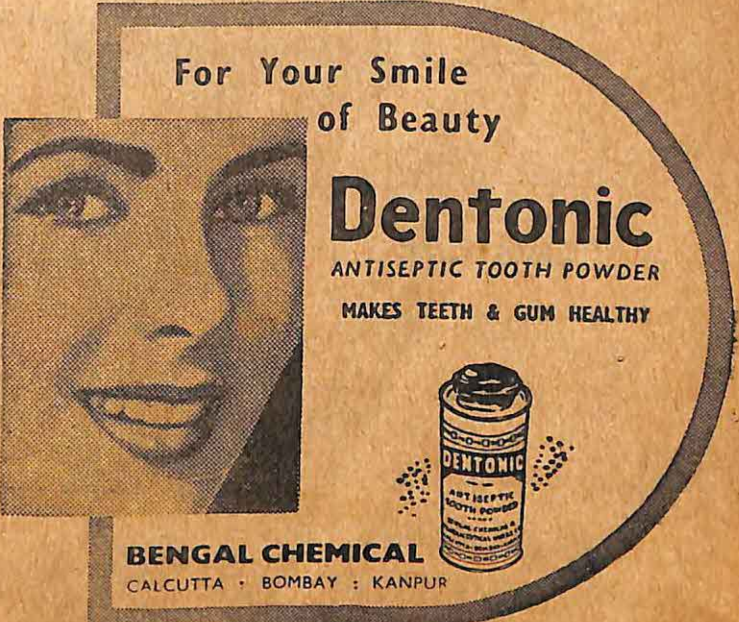

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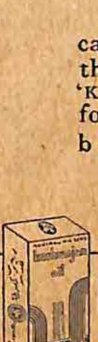

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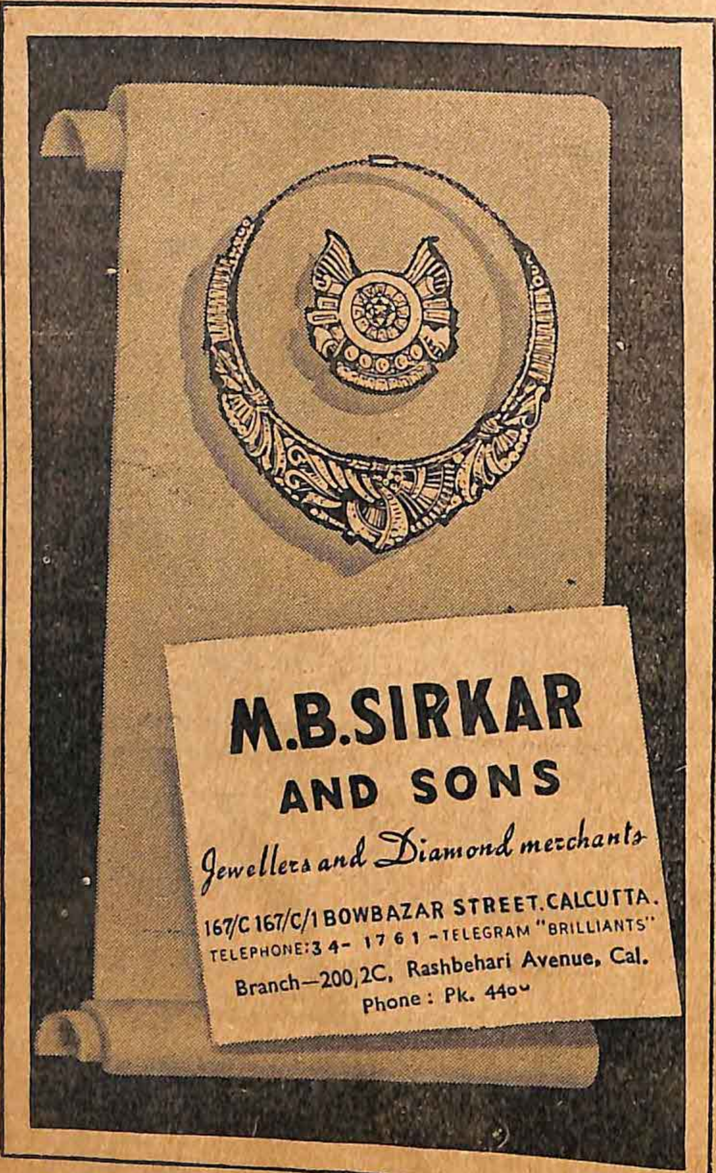

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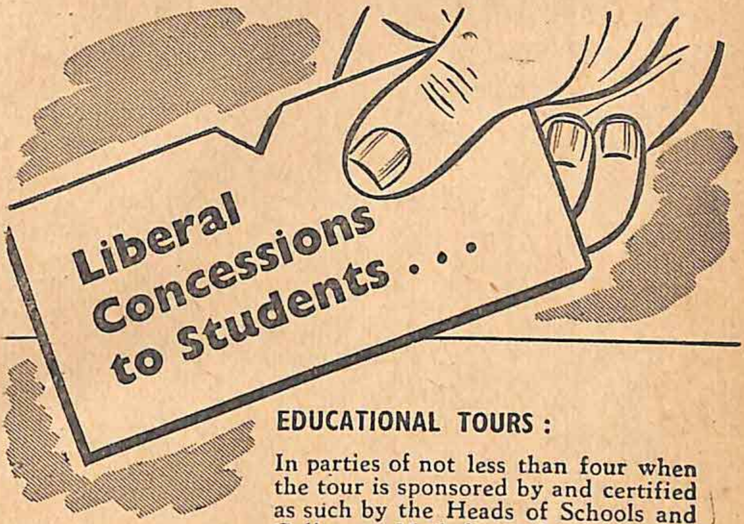

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Forms 35 to 40 printed by B. K. Sen, Modern India Press, 7, Wellington Sqr. Cal-
utta ; Forms 41 to 46 by Nibaran Ch. Das, Prabasi Press, 120|2, Upper Circular
Road, Calcutta and the rest by Nalin Ch. Ray, Imperial Art Cottage, 1/A, Tagore
astle St., Calcutta and published by S. Sarkar, M. C. Sarkar & Sons Ltd.;
14, Bankim Chatterjee St., Calcutta-12

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INDIA AT A GLANCE

AREA

India covers an area of 1,269,640 square miles including Jammu and Kashmir and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It has a land frontier 8,200 miles long and a coast line of 3,500 miles. She is roughly two-thirds the size of Europe excluding Russia or thirteen times that of United Kingdom, is the seventh largest country in the world. It extends about 2,000 miles from north to south and about 1,700 miles from east to west. India is bounded on three sides by the sea. She shares her frontier, which runs from west to east, with West Pakistan, Turkestan, Tibet, China, Burma and Eastern Pakistan.

PHYSICAL DIVISION

India can be divided into *three distinct physical divisions or three regions.*

1. The Himalayan region.
2. The Indo-Gangetic plains.
3. The Deccan or Plateau of the south.

The *Himalayan Region* stretches from western limits of Kashmir in the west to Burma in the east, a distance of 1,700 miles with an average width of nearly 200 miles, forming a natural barrier to the north. The Himalayas with Pamirs, Hindukush, Sulaiman etc., form a mountain wall shutting off Indian sub-continent from the rest of Asia. The Himalayan region acts as a natural protective wall and provides rain water for the plains by arresting the moisture-bearing clouds of south-west monsoon. During winter, it obstructs cold winds of Central Asia from coming to Indian sub-continent. The region contains rich animal and forest resources.

The Indo-Gangetic plain lies between the Peninsula and the Himalayas extending for about 1,500 miles. It is watered by the Ganges and its tributaries—Jamuna, Gomti, Gagra and Gandak and also by Brahmaputra. A part of the East Punjab is watered by Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The plain covers an area of 300,000 sq. miles and economically the most developed and fertile region. As the name indicates, the plain has two great river systems, the Indus and its tributaries and the Ganges and its tributaries. A third great river, the Brahmaputra, cuts through the Himalayas near their eastern end and joins the Ganges to form a great delta. The land drained by those rivers is alluvial and forms the most fertile region in India.

The Deccan—From the river-plains on the north and from the coast-plains on the east and west of Peninsular India, there rises a great three-sided plateau called the Deccan. It begins at Vindhya mountain in the north and other two sides are known as Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats. This region is quite unlike the low-lying

Indo-Gangetic plain. It is not smooth and flat but a table-land raised from 1,500 feet to 4,000 feet above the sea level and broken up into many river valleys which run seawards among ranges of hills. The plateau is traversed by the rivers Narbada and Tapti which fall into the Arabian Sea and the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Cauvery which drain into Bay of Bengal.

CLIMATE AND RAINFALL

Spreading as the does from the sub-tropics in the south to the freezing north, India has a varied climate. The weather changes seasonally and from region to region.

As the greater part of the country lies within the Tropics, the climate is tropical; high temperatures being the rule in the low-lands, lower temperatures in the high-lands. The rainfall is determined to a great extent by the monsoon. So dependent is India on this annual rainfall that variations from year to year mean prosperity or disaster for millions. There are two such currents, the *South-West monsoon*, and *North-East monsoon*. The *South-West monsoon*, as it is called, strikes India about the middle of June. S. W. monsoon gives 85 per cent. of the total rainfall of India and effects the growth of nearly all her food-crops. This monsoon reaches the country in two currents—Arabian sea current and the Bay of Bengal current. The former gives rain to Bombay, the Punjab, and a part of the Madhya Pradesh and the latter to the rest of India and to Burma.

The other current known as *North-East monsoon* is really South-West monsoon in retreat and flows from the land towards the sea. The north-east monsoon brings rain only to Travancore-Cochin and parts of Madras.

The different parts of the country receive rainfall in different degrees. Cherrapunji in Assam gets an annual rainfall of about 465 inches, whereas some parts of Rajasthan and Eastern Punjab get annual rainfall less than 7 inches.

We can divide the country into four zones according to rainfall: (1) *Wet zone*, where minimum rainfall is 100 inches. This includes West Bengal, Assam and Western coast stripes. (2) *Intermediate zone* ((zone of moderate rainfall) : it includes portions of Central India, Himalayas to Godavari river, east-coast of the peninsula and eastern side of the Western Ghat and up to Baroda, where rainfall is between 40 inches and 80 inches. (3) *Dry zone*, where rainfall is less than 40 inches. (4) *Desert zone*, where rainfall is less than 20 inches, *i.e.*, Rajasthan and East Punjab.

According to the climatic condition of India, we can classify the season as follows—(1) *cold weather* from October to February (2) *hot weather* from March to June (3) *rainy weather* from June to October.

SOIL OF INDIA

Indian soil may be mainly classified under four different heads namely, (1) *alluvial soil*, (2) *black soil*, (3) *red soil* and (4) *late* *soil.*

The alluvial soil is formed by the silts brought by the riv every year and deposited on their banks. It is very fertile a covers greater part of the northern India between the foot of Himalayas and the northern slopes of the Vindhyas and extends a narrow fringe round the coastline of the Peninsula. Territoria they occupy Punjab, Uttar-Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal parts Assam and Orissa and also in the coastal regions of Southern Ind The whole of the Indo-Gangetic plain is comprised in this area.

Red soils cover the whole of Madras, Mysore and south-ea Bombay, east of Hyderabad and Madhya Pradesh to Orissa a Chota Nagpur. Northwards the red soil extends into greater pa of Santhal Parganas and the Birbhum district of West Bengal, t Mirzapur, Jhansi and Hamirpur District of the Uttar Pradesh, t Baghelkhand States of Central India, the Aravalis and the easte half of Rajasthan.

Black soil or black cotton soil is formed by the lava of volcan eruptions and is very suitable for cotton cultivation. The black so covers greater part of Bombay and Saurashtra, western part c M. P., Madhya Bharat and Hyderabad and some parts of Madra State. Black cotton soil is exceedingly compact and tenacious an sticky when wet. The water holding capacity of this soil is good Cotton, jawar, wheat, linseed and gram are cultivated in these area and the soil is rich in iron and aluminium but very poor in organi matter and other plant nutrients. *Laterite soil* is derived by th atmospheric weathering of several types of rocks under monsoo conditions of alternating dry and wet periods. This soil is found o the summits of the hills of the Deccan, Madhya Bharat, Madhya Pradesh and of the Rajmahal and Eastern Ghats and certain parts of Orissa, Bombay, Malabar and Asam.

LANGUAGES

The Constitution of India stipulates that official language of India should be Hindi with in Devanagri script and that the international form of the Indian numerals should be used officially. For 15 years, however English should continue to be used for official purposes. Following 14 languages are recognized by the Constitution—Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Malayalam, Marhathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

The speakers of languages as recognised in the Constitution are as follows—

Hindi, Urdu, Hindustani & Punjabi	149,944,311	Bengali	25,121,674	Oriya	13,153,909
Telugu	32,999,916	Gujarati	16,310,771	Assamese	4,988,226
Marathi	27,049,522	Kannada	14,471,764	Kashmiri	5,086
Tamil	26,546,764	Malayalam	13,380,109	Sanskrit	555

RELIGION

Hindus in India are 3,032 lakhs which means 8,499 per 10,000 population of other religious are as follows—Sikhs 62 lakhs, ins 16 lakhs, Buddhists 2 lakhs, Zoroastrians 1 lakh, Christians 82 khs, Muslims 354 lakhs, other religions (tribal) 17 lakhs, other ligions (non-tribal) 1 lakh.

HIMALAYAN FRONTIER

The Himalayan range is an effective barrier against invasion r interference from the north. There are few usable passes leadig from the plains, most of them serve as gateways of trade. In he Central Arc of the Himalayas there are some famous passes, ut unfortunately they are very high and difficult to climb and snowound for major part of the year. These are *Jelep La* north of Gangtok in Sikkim leading to Leh and *Shipki pass* from Simla to Manasarovar region.

The present north-west frontier of India is no longer the old traditional frontier which admitted all foreign invaders of India. After partition of India, the boundary of the new north-west frontier of India is about 200 miles long starting from the southern boundary of Kashmir up to the north-eastern limit of the Bahawalpur State.

India is separated from Burma by Patkai, Naga and Lushai Hills and by Arakan Yoma, so that overland route with India is scarcely resorted to though there are four main gaps—Tuzu Gap. Manipur Route, An Pass, and Taungup Pass. There are Zozila Pass and Karakoram Pass leading to Tibet from Srinagar.

COAST LINE

Coast line of India lacks in indentations and although about 3,500 miles in length, it has only four openings of importance into land, such as Runn of Cutch and Gulf of Cambay on west, the Gulf of Mannar between India and Ceylon and the head to the Bay of Bengal. The coasts are singularly free from islands and the sea round the coast of India is very shallow and the shores are usually flat and sandy. The West coast is rocky with mountains close to the sea. East coast is less rocky but the sea here is shallow, so that large ships cannot approach the coast.

RIVER SYSTEMS

(1) *Rivers of Northern India*—They all rise in the mountain wall or beyond it. The rivers are fed with waters from the gradual melting of snow. They do not depend entirely for their waters on the monsoon rains.

The three greater river systems of northern India are :—(*a*) *Indus* river with its five tributaries, *i.e.*, *Jhelum*, *the Chenub*, *Ravi*, *the Beas* and *the Sutlej* (*b*) *Ganges* with a course of fifteen hundred miles, drains Himalaya's southern slopes and with its tributaries, *the Jamuna*, *the Gogra*, *the Gondak*, *the Chambal* and *the*

Sone, and enters Bay of Bengal through extensive deltas with multitude of channels; (c) *Brahmaputra* flows down through Tibet, Assam and Eastern Bengal and discharges its floods after a course of sixteen hundred and eighty miles into Bay of Bengal.

(2) *Rivers of Peninsular India*—They are quite different from the rivers of the northern India. They rise in the hills of the plateau and they are fed only by monsoon rains. The rivers rise near Western Ghats, and flow towards Bay of Bengal. The most important are the *Mahanadi, Godavari, Kistna* and *Cavery*. In the north of the plateau two important rivers, *Narbada* and *Tapti* flow westwards.

PORTS

India has very few natural harbours, because it is broken by very few inlets of the sea, the sea round the coast is very shallow and the shores are usually flat and sandy. Except Bombay, Okha and Cochin, all other ports in Western India coast are virtually inaccessible during the monsoon. The eastern coast of India is surf-bound and has no natural harbour. Calcutta is about 90 miles from the sea and the formation of sand banks in the Hooghly has made Calcutta a dangerous port.

The principal ports of India are Bedi Bunder, Okha, Porbandar, Surat, Bombay, Marmugao, Mangolore, Calicut, Cochin, Alleppey, Quilon, Tuticorin, Dhanushkodi, Negapatam, Karikal, Cuddalore, Pondicherry, Madras, Masulipatam, Kakinada, Vishakapatnam, Calcutta. Bombay, Visakhapatnam, Madras, Cochin and Calcutta are termed 'major ports' of India. There are also 200 minor ports of varying capacity. To make up the loss of Karachi Government of India is constructing another major port at Kandla on the Gulf of Kutch.

POPULATION

The total population of India (excluding Jammu & Kashmir and Part B Tribal areas of Assam) is 356,829,485 which is an increase of 12·5 p.c. over the corresponding figure of 1941. India has 947 females for every 1,000 males. The males are 183,305,654 and females are 173,523,831. As regards population, Uttar Pradesh has got the highest number with a total of 68 millions. In area Madhya Pradesh (1,30,272 sq. m.) is the largest state in India.

The average density of population in India is 312 per sq. mile. It is as high as 3,017 in Delhi and 1,015 in Travancore-Cochin.

Out of the total population of India only 17·3 per cent live in cities and towns, while the remaining 82·7 per cent in villages.

There are 73 cities in India each with a population of one lakh and over.

As regards economic classification, 70 per cent of the people depend on agriculture and 30 per cent on non-agricultural professions.

Out of 100 Indians 47 are peasant proprietors, 9 mainly tenants, 13 landless labourers, 1 a landlord, 10 engaged in industries, 6 in commerce, 2 in transport and 12 in services and miscellaneous professions.

The India's total population is the second highest in the world, China leading with a population of 463·50 millions. India's population constitutes 15·1 per cent of the total world population as against China's 19·4 per cent. So far as land area is concerned, she ranks seventh in the world.

Population ..	356,829,485	No. of Towns ..	3,018
Density per sq. mile ..	312	No. of Villeges	5,58,089
Urban Population	17·3 p.c.	Cities with 1 lakh pop. or over	73
Rural Population	82·7 p.c.	Sex ratio	947 females per 1000 males
Agricultural Population	70 p.c.	Birth rate (1950) per 1000	24·8
Non-agricultural Population	30 p.c.	Death rate (1950) per 1000	16·0
		Infant mortality (1950) per 1000	127

INDIAN RACES

During the British period the first official enumeration of the people of India was made by Sir Herbert Risley which was an official pronouncement accepted very largely both in India and outside India, though it is now regarded as arbitrary classification based on insufficient data and immature science. Indian races were divided into seven broad groups, such as *Mongoloid, Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Mongolo-Dravidian, Aryo-Dravidian, Scytho-Dravidian* and *Turko-Iranian.*

Next classification was made by Dr. J. H. Hutton in 1933 based on race-cum-language and-culture sequence. According to this theory all people came to India from outside such as—

(1) *Negritos* from Africa, the oldest people to have come to India now surviving in the Andaman islands and in Malaya. Traces of them seem to occur among the Nagas in Assam and in certain tribes in South India.

(2) *Proto-Australoids*—who came from the East Mediterranean area.

(3) *Early Mediterranians*—who brought earlier forms of the Austric speech.

(4) *Civilised or Advanced Mediterranean*—who became Dravidians in India.

(5) *Armenoids*—a specialised offshoot from the standard Alpine stock probably came with the civilised Mediterraneans (Dravidians) and spoke their language.

(6) *Alpines*—found in Gujarat and Bengal ; earlier than Vedic Aryans but probably speaking Aryan dialects.

(7) *Vedic Aryans or Nordics*—who brought the Vedic Aryan (Sanskrit) speech.

(8) *Mongoloids*—Not important for the greater part of Indi as they touched only the northern and eastern fringes.

The most recent and authoritative classification has been mad by Dr. B. S. Guha, Director of Anthropology who divides the peopl of India into six main races with nine sub-types.

(1) *Negrito*—is now almost extinct in India, a small group i still surviving in Andamans and its traces have been found amon Kadars and Palayans of Cochin and Travancore Hills, Irurals o the Wynad, the Angami Nagas of Assam and some of the Rajmaha Hill tribes of Bihar.

(2) *Proto Austroloids*—seem to have come from the West. The survive in a good many aboriginal peoples of the present day India although more or less mingled with other people. A branch of th Proto Austroloids passed on to Australia in recent times. Through out the greater part of India, the Proto-Austroloid peoples still liv as the lower castes or sections of the Indian people.

(3) *The Magoloid Group*—is divided into (1) Palaeo-Mongo loids consisting of long headed and broad headed types. They for a dominant element in the tribes in Assam and the Indo-Burmes frontier and among the less primitive types in Burma and in Chitta gong. (2) Tibeto-Mongoloids are found in Sikkim and Bhutan.

(4) *Mediterranean Group* consisting of (*a*) Palaeo-Mediterra nean, medium statured, dark skinned and slight built, found i Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam tracts. (*b*) Mediterranean, tru European type found in the Punjab, Upper Gangetic Valley and i supposed to represent civilised pre-Aryan Dravidian people o Northern India, who contributed largely to the evolution of Hind people and culture of North India. (*c*) Oriental Type, sometim called Semitic or Jewish, found in the Punjab, in Sind, in Rajputana in western U.P. and in some other parts of India.

(5) *Western Brachycephals* consisting of (*a*) Alpinoid, (*b* Dinarik and (*c*) Armenoid. They seem to have evolved in th Central Asian mountain regions and both Alpine and Dinaric varie ties appear to have spread over the greater part of India, *i.e.*, Bengal Orissa, Kathiawar, Kannada and Tamil countries, Gujarat, Wes coast of India excepting Malabar. The Parsis of Bombay are allie to Armenoids.

(6) *Nordics* are the Aryan speaking group of India who ar responsible for India's Hindu civilisation and seem to have com from the Eurasian steppe lands and entered India during the secon half of the second millennium B.C. The Nordic elements are stron in North-West Frontier of India, in the south of Hindu-Kush range Nordic elements are present in mixed form in Punjab, Rajputana Upper Ganges Valley. They are also found among higher caste and groups and also Nordic type predominates in certain sections i India.

Lastly the author of this classification Dr. B. S. Guha has how ever stated, "It must be clearly understood that no rigid separatio is possible as there is considerable over-lapping of types."

MINERALS

The most important mining area of India is Chota Nagpur plateau comprising the region of South Bihar, south-west Bengal and north Orissa. Most of the country's coal, iron, mica and copper come from this region. India's coal mines are centred mainly in the Raniganj and Jharia fields of West Bengal and Bihar. Some mines are found in Hyderabad, M.P. and Assam. Raniganj and Jharia account for 70 p.c. and more than 80 p.c. of the total coal raising. The total reserves of coal in India are estimated to be 6,500 million tons, but reserves of good quality coal amount to 5,000 million tons. In India iron ore is found in Singhbhum, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Mysore. Indian iron ore is of a very high quality. The average annual iron ore production is about 3 million tons. Mica is found in Hazaribagh (Bihar), Ajmer, Travancore and Mysore. India is the leading producer of mica and accounts for more than 60 p.c. of the world's output. Salt is obtained by the evaporation from Sambhar Lake in Rajasthan and ocean water in Bombay and Madras. Ilmenite and monazite, minerals of strategic importance are found in the sands along the Travancore coast. Magnesite is worked in the Chalk hills of Madras, gold at Kolar Gold Fields in Mysore. Besides bauxite, chromite, steatite, gypsum, building stone, fire clay, asbestos, corundum and fuller's earth also occur in the country in varying degrees. Moreover her supplies of manganese, ilmenite, monazite and titanium ores are among the largest in the world.

But the country is deficient in petroleum. Its supplies of sulphur, silver, nickel, tin, zinc, mercury, tungsten platinum, graphite, asphalt etc are inadequate for country's need.

AGRICULTURE

The rural population is 87 per cent. of the total population, out of which 70 per cent. is engaged in agriculture. The output per acre in India compares unfavourably with any other country. India produces a variety of food and cash crops. The main food crops grown in India are rice, wheat, gram and jawar-bajra which account for about 80 per cent. of her total production of food grains.

Rice is grown in the Ganges valley, mountainous districts of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Western Ghats and the coastal belts of Orissa and Madras. Wheat is grown in Punjab, Pepsu, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, sugarcane grows in the Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madras, Mysore, Orissa, Hyderabad and Punjab. Oil seeds are grown in northern Madras, cotton in Punjab and in Deccan plateau. Tea is mainly grown in West Bengal, Assam and Nilgiris. Jute is mainly grown in West Bengal,. Coffee, tea, rubber, pepper and cardamom plantations are to be found in the Annamalai and Cardamom Hills. Coconuts with coir and copra and cashew-nuts are plentiful in Malaba coast.

The Indian agriculture furnishes means of subsistence of one-seventh of the human race. It leads the world in jute, lac, tea, groundnut, cane sugar. Her position as regards rice, linseed, mille is almost supreme in the world. The chief agricultural products c India are—rice, wheat, millets, pulses, gram, cotton, sugarcan indigo, groundnut, linseed, castor, sesmum and oilseeds, jut tobacco, tea and coffee.

The agriculture in India is a seasonal industry. There are tw principal cropping seasons—*kharif*, the summer rain cultivation an *rabi*, the winter rain cultivation. *Kharif*, crops are sown with th outbreak of monsoon and harvested in September or October.

ANIMALS

Indian climatic conditions have naturally developed a gre variety of animal life and the number of animal species found India is much greater than that in Europe.

In India, animals are chiefly seen in the valleys of the Him layas (*i.e. Terai Forests*) extending from Kashmir to the Brahm putra valley, on the Eastern and Western Ghats and in the jungl of Madhya Pradesh and Central India. There are several big gan reserve forests in India which now preserve some rare animals India.

(1) *Wild Animals—lion* is almost extinct and is now preserv in Gir forest of Kathiawar. *Tigers* are found all over Indi *Leopards* (hunting leopards), *Panthers, Cheetahs* are common in th hills and plains. *Elephants* are found in the lower Himalaya valley, the Brahmaputra valley and forests of Nilgiri hills. *Bea* are available on the hills everywhere. *Deer* and *antelopes* a commonly seen in the plains.

Yaks are only seen in higher Himalayas. *Rhinoceros* live the swamps of Assam, North Bengal, Nepal. *Monkeys, Porcupine Hares, wild Hogs* are to be seen everywhere.

(2) *Domestic Animals—goats, sheep, horses, ponies, asse mules, bullocks, buffaloes* are available here and there. *Camels* a seen in the desert districts or Rajasthan, and East Punjab.

(3) *Birds*—Vultures, kites, hawks, wild ducks, wild geese, pa ridges pigeons, parrots, cranes, peacocks, snipes and sand grous are available everywhere. Birds in India, as in most hot countrie are more famous for their plumage than for their song.

(4) *Reptiles*—Crocodiles are seen everywhere. The deadl snakes of India are *Cobras, Russel's Vipers, Kerait, Hamadryeds*

(5) *Fish*—Most numerous fish are of carp family. The fines fish from angler's point is *Masher* found in all streams. The riches and tasty fish of India is *hilsa*. Fishing waters, river and sea, o Bengal and Madras are among the most extensive in the world.

LIVESTOCK

India is one of the largest livestock countries in the world which comprise about a seventh of the world's livestock populatio excluding U.S.S.R. The livestock population of India is 29,22,18,00 Cattle accounts for two-thirds of the total number. Both per head o uman population and per acre of cultivated land, the number of ivestock in India exceeds those in most other countries. The most mportant cattle-rearing region is the north-west. It is a belt xtending from Kathiawar through Rajasthan and Punjab to Kashmir.

The chief livestock products are milk, butter, ghee, meat and ggs, while a proportion of hides, skins, wool, bones and horns is xported. The annual production of milk is 17·7 million tons and per apita consumption of milk and milk products has been estimated at ·45 oz. a day.

Among the best cows in India are *Sahiwal* (Punjab) and *Gir* Saurashtra). The important breeds of bullocks are *Hissar* and *Iansi* (Punjab), *Nellore* (Madras), *Amrit Mahal* (Mysore), *Kan- raj* (Gujrat), *Kangayam* (Madras), *Kherigarh* (U.P.), *Dangi* and *Vimar* (Bombay) and *Harina* (Punjab).

FORESTS

Forest area of India—1,47,705,000 acres.

P.C. of the total area of India—18.22.

The forest areas are not well-distributed in some of the States. pecially in the Indo-Gangetic plain where area has fallen to the langerously low feature of 11 p.c. in Punjab, 16 in U.P., and 14 in Bihar.

India has been divided into three botanical areas and six pro- inces for the proper study of vegetation of India. The three bota- ical areas are (a) *Himalayan*—represents a rich, tropical tem- erate and alpine flora with forests of conifers, oaks, rhododendons nd a profusion of orchids (b) *Eastern*—consisting of a few conifers, nany oaks and palms with a greater preponderance of orchids and c) *Western* which has only one conifer, few palms and very small rchids without any oak.

These three areas are divided into six botanical provinces based n their climate and physical characters, namely (1) Eastern Hima- aya (2) Western Himalaya (3) Indus plain (4) Gangetic plain in- luding Sunderbans (5) Malabar (6) Deccan—each with its peculiar ora.

The forest vegetation of India is divided into five types accord- ng to the variation in climate, altitude and habitat, such as—(1) *vergreen* (2) *Deciduous* (3) *Dry* (4) *Hill* (5) *Tidal or Littoral.*

The forests in India supply valuable timber, firewood, essential ils, resin, turpentine, lac, dyeing material, myrobalans, sources of aper pulp and other materials of commerce and industry. The chief orest products of India are—teak, sal, deodar, chir, sheesham, many pecies of bamboo, leaves, fruits, fibres, grass, gums, resin, barks, etc.

STATES

The States of the Indian Union is divided into three classes, listed espectively in Parts A, B, C of the First Schedule annexed to the onstitution. *Part A States* are Assam, Andhra, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Madras, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and We Bengal. *Part B States* are—Hyderabad, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhy Bharat, Mysore, Patiala and East Punjab States, Rajasthan, Sa rashtra, Travancore Cochin. *Part C States* are—Ajmer, Bhopa Coorg, Delhi, Vindhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Bilaspu Kutch, Manipur, Tripura. Under the *Part D territories* there is onl Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

FLAG

National Flag is horizontal tricolour with bands of deep saffro white and dark green in equal proportions. On the centre of th white band appears an Asoka Chakra (wheel) which is navy blue.

INDIAN FACTS IN A NUTSHELL

POPULATION

Every seventh man in the world is an Indian.

* * * * *

India's total population of 361·25 (including Kashmir and Trib areas of Assam) according to 1951 census is the second highest i the world, China leading with a population of 463·50 million.

* * * * *

The density of population per sq. m. in Indian Union 312 accor ing to 1951 census.

* * * * *

India's population constitutes 15·1 per cent of the total popul tion of the world population against China's 19·4 per cent.

* * * * *

In respect of population of States, Uttar Pradesh has got th highest number with a total of 63·25 millions. Next comes Madra with a population of 57 millions.

* * * * *

In respect of area M.P. is the largest State with an area 130·32 thousand sq. miles, next comes Rajasthan with 1,30,20 sq. miles.

* * * * *

Total land area of India covered by 1951 census is 1,269,640 s miles.

* * * * *

India's 73 cities have a population of a lakh or over. Utt Pradesh has the largest number of cities—16.

* * * * *

82·7 per cent of the population reside in villeges where 17·3 per cent live in cities and towns.

* * * * *

India has 947 females for every 1,000 males.

AGRICULTURE

India is mainly an agricultural country. It provides livelihood 70 per cent of the people and accounts for nearly 48 per cent of e national income.

* * * * *

India is one of world's leading producers of commercial crops ıd they form the bulk of country's export trade.

* * * * *

India is the world's largest producer of oilseeds and tea and ird largest grower of tobacco.

* * * * *

India is one of the most fertile lands in the world. But the erage yield of every crop per acre is not only the lowest in the orld but the figures are tragic.

* * * * *

Indian forests cover nearly a ninth of the country's area.

* * * * *

India has now the largest irrigation works and the longest ileage of canals in the world.

* * * * *

India has fourth of the world's total cattle, *i.e.*, about 155 illions. But India's cattle are worst of the lot, and they are only, as they do, to produce for India the largest amount of cattle des. Besides low fertility, the major defect of Indian cattle is that Indian cow on the average yields a little bit over 2 lbs., of milk day compared to Holland's 20·5 lbs., and England's 15 lbs. and New ealand's 14 lbs.

* * * * *

The chief crops of India are rice, wheat, sugarcane, tea, cotton, te, linseed, groundnut, coffee and rubber.

* * * * *

India today is one of the largest producers of sugar, 80% of hich is produced in the two States of U.P. and Bihar. But the per pita consumption of sugar in India is the lowest in the world.

* * * * *

India enjoys virtual monopoly of lac production in the world ıd leads the world in the production of groundnut and tea.

* * * * *

India is the second largest producer of rice, jute tobacco and tton.

* * * * *

More than 50 per cent of the tea grown in the world comes from dia.

MINERALS

India is the main source of the world's supply ilmenite, mangase, manazite, zircon and mica.

* * * * *

India is one of the world's leading producers of high grade mannese ore.

India is the largest producer of mica, contributing about 70 pe cent of the total output. Bihar supplies about 80 per cent of India' total production.

* * * * *

Indian iron ore has the highest metal content (about 55 to 7 per cent) which makes the production cost of pig iron the lowes in the world.

* * * * *

The annual consumption of salt in India is estimated at 530 lak tons which means that per capita consumption of salt is one of th lowest in the world. India has however become self-sufficient i salt within recent years.

* * * * *

India produces annually about 3,50,000 ounces of gold value a about Rs. 3 crores.

* * * * *

India stands 12th among the petroleum producing countries o the world, and the average production per year is about 0·62% of th world output.

TRADE & INDUSTRIES

India is one of the largest industrial countries of the world ; bu industry gives occupation to only about 8% of the total populatio of India, and the pressure on land is very great.

* * * * *

India ranks fifth in the world in volume of trade. Raw materials take the biggest place in the export trade, of which jute, tea cotton, skin and rice form half.

* * * * *

Jute and cotton manufactures, tea, spices, vegetable oils, ra cotton and wool, tobacco, seeds, gums, fruits, mica and manganes have constituted the bulk of the country's export trade in recen years.

* * * * *

India is ranked among the first ten industrial countries of th world.

* * * * *

India film industry is the second largest in the world.

* * * * *

Indian textile industry is the leading industry of India : India' tea, sugar, match and vegetable oil industry are among the bigges in the world.

* * * * *

Sugar takes the third place among Indian industries.

* * * * *

Tata Iron and Steel works at Jamshedpur are now the larges steel works in the East.

* * * * *

The India railway system is by for the largest in Asia and th second biggest state-owned enterprise in the world.

PUBLIC HEALTH & HYGIENE

It is estimated that nearly 2·5 million people suffer from tubercu-osis and half a million die of it annually.

* * * * *

Malaria still continues to take the largest toll of human lives. has been estimated that at least 100 million persons in the whole f India suffer from malaria every year. The annual mortality on his account is probably of the order of 1—1½ million.

* * * * *

The birth rate per thousand of population is about 25·5 and eath rate is about 17·2 per 1,000 population.

INDIAN INFORMATION

CITIES OF INDIA

Bihar

atna ..	2,83,479
amshedpur	2,18,162
aya ..	1,33,700
hagalpur	1,14,530
anchi ..	1,06,849

Bombay

ombay	28,39,270
hmedabad	7,88,333
oona ..	4,80,982
holapur	2,66,050
urat ..	2,23,182
aroda ..	2,11,407
olhapur	1,36,835
ubli ..	1,29,609

M. P.

agpur	4,49,099
abalpur	2,56,998

Madras

adras	14,16,057
adurai	3,61,781
iruchira-palli	2,18,921
lem ..	2,02,335
oimbatore	1,97,755
ijayavada	1,61,198
ozhikode	1,58,724
untur	1,25,255
angalore	1,17,083
Visakhapatnam ..	1,08,042
Vellore	1,06,024
Rajahmundry ..	1,05,276
Tanjore	1,00,680

Orissa

Cuttack	1,02,505

Punjab

Amritsar	325,747
Jullundur	1,68,816
Ludhiana	1,53,795

Uttar Pradesh

Kanpur	7,05,383
Lucknow	4,96,861
Agra	3,75,665
Banarus	3,55,777
Allahabad	3,32,295
Meerut	2,33,183
Bareilly	2,08,083
Moradabad	1,61,854
Saharanpur	1,48,435
Dehra Dun	1,44,216
Aligarh	1,41,618
Rampur	1,34,277
Gorakapur	1,32,436
Jhansi	1,27,365

West Bengal

Calcutta	25,48,677
Howrah	4,33,630
Tollyganj	1,49,317
Bhatpara	1,34,916
Kharagpur	1,29,636
Garden Reach	1,09,160
Behala	1,04,055
*Greater Calcutta	29,11,209

Hyderabad

Hyderabad	10,85,722
Warangal	1,33,130

M. B.

Indore	3,10,859
Gwatior	2,41,571
Ujjain	1,29,817

Mysore

Bangalore	7,78,977
Mysore	2,44,323
Kolar Gold Fields	1,59,084

Rajasthan

Jaipur	2,91,130
Jodhpur	1,80,717
Bikaher	1,17,113

Saurashtra

Bhavnagar	1,37,951
Rajkot	1,32,069
Jamnagur	1,04,419

Tra-Cochin

Trivandrum	1,86,931
Alleppey	1,16,278

Ajmer

Ajmer	1,96,633

Bhopal

Bhopal	1,02,633

Delhi

Delhi	9,14,790
New Delhi	2,76,314

INDIAN BRIDGES

	feet
Sone Bridge	10,052
Godavari Bridge	9,096
Mahanadi Bridge	6,912
Willingdon Bridge	2,610
Howrah Bridge* (1943)	2,150
Jubilee Bridge (Naihati)	1,213
Meghna Bridge	1,213
Duffrin Bridge, Banaras, 1887	3,518
Curzon Bridge, Allahabad, 1905	3,200
Tapti Bridge, 1872	2,556
Izat Bridge, Allahabad, 1912	6,830

	feet
Naini Bridge (1865, Allahabad)	3,235
Jumna Bridge (1866 Delhi)	2,640
Malaviya Bridge (1887, Banaras)	
Sutlej Bridge	4,210
Alexandra Bridge (Chenab)	9,088
Narbada Bridge (1881)	4,687
Hooghly Bridge	1,213
Ravi Bridge (Pathenkot-Jammu	2,800

DISTANCES BY RAIL

	Bombay.	*Calcutta.*	*Madras.*
Agra	835	790	1239
Ahmedabad	306	1328	1100
Allahabad	845	512	1484
Ambala	984	1025	1481
Bangalore	745	1245	222
Banaras	928	429	1461
Bombay	—	1223	794
Calcutta	1223	—	1032
Kanpur	840	630	1602
Darjeeling	1611	388	1420
Dibrugarh	2051	828	1860
Gaya	1057	292	1324
Delhi	845	902	1361
Hyderabad (Dn.)	491	987	373

	Bombay.	*Calcutta.*	*Madras.*
Jabalpore	616	733	1263
Jodhpur	1206	1131	1580
Madras	794	1032	—
Lucknow	885	616	1386
Madurai	1099	1337	305
Mathura	868	823	1272
Nagpur	520	703	682
Poona	119	1342	675
Ranchi	1447	251	1283
Saharanpur	974	938	1430
Trichinopoly	1003	1241	209
Viskhapatnam	1277	543	483
Simla	1301	1342	1798

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*Largest cantilever span bridge in India and the third largest cantilever bridge in the world.

GAME SANCTUARIES

Jaldapara Game Sanctuary (W. Bengal) mainly for rhino & buffalo.
Bandipur Game Sanctuary 48 m. from Mysore.
Pariyar wild-life Sanctuary, Travancore.
Sonai-Rupa Game Sanctuary, Darrang (Assam).
Prava Reserve, N. Lakhimpur (Assam).
Orang & Lashowa Reserves (Darrang & Nowgong).
Manas Game Sanctuary, Kamrup (Assam).
Khiziranga Game Sanctuary Sibsagar (Assam).
Hailey National Park, U. P.

SOME HIMALAYAN PEAKS*

	feet		feet
Mt. Everest	29,002	Nanda Devi	25,645
K^2	28,250	Rakaposhi	25,550
Kanchanjunga ..	28,125	Kamet	25,447
Makalu	27,790	Gurla Mandhata ..	25,355
Broad Peak	27,133	Tirich Mir	25,263
Dhaulagiri	26,795	Chomohari	23,996
Mansalu	26,658	Badrinath	23,190
Annapurna	26,492	Gangotri	21,700
Gossainthan	26,291	Bandarpunch	20,720

ATTEMPTS ON EVEREST

1920—Permission given by Dalai Lama to climb Everest from Tibetan side
1921—1st Mt. Everest Expedition under Lt. Col. Howard Bury, reached North Col. for the first time
1922—Expedition under J. G. Bruce .. 27,300
1924—Mt. Everest Exp. under Gen. Bruce and afterwards Norton* 28,150
Reached by Norton
933—Mt. Everest Expedition under Hugh Ruthlege .. 28,150
934—Maurice Wilson's lone attempt in which he lost his life
1935—Eric Shipton's reconnaisance expedition only
1936—Mr. Everest Exp. by Hugh Ruttlege given up due to bad weather and monsoon snow
1938—Light mobile expedition by Tilman given up for atrocious weather
1951—Reconnaisance expedition by Shipton to discover route from South Col. from the head of CWM through Nepal

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*There are 12 peaks between 26,000 ft. to 27,000 ft. There are peaks between 25,000 ft. to 26,000 ft.

1952—Swiss Expedition by Dr. Wyss Dunant (reached by Lambert & Tensing) ..	28,215
1952—2nd Swiss Exp. by Chevalley (Post-monsoon) ..	26,686
1953—British Exp. led by Col. John Hunt reaches Mount Everest on 29-5-53 (*reached by Tensing and Hillary*)	29,002

ATTEMPTS ON KANCHANJANGA, 28,620 ft.

A. Crowley	1905
E. P. Parmer	1929
Paul Bauar	1929
J. Dyhernforth	1930

CONQUEST OF MAJOR HIMALAYAN PEAKS

Trisul by Longstaff (1907)	23,406
Do. by Oliver & K. Singh (1933)	
Do. by Indian Expedition (1951)	
Jonsong Peak by Prof. Dyhrenforth (1930) ..	24,472
Kabru by W. W. Graham, 1883	
Annapurna by French Expedition, leader M. Hertzog (1950) ..	26,502
Tirich Mir by Norwegian Expedition (1950)	25,263
Satopanth by Roch & Sutter (1947) ..	23,240
Ramthang Peak by Prof. Dyhrenforth (1930) ..	23,200
Mukut Parbat by A. E. Riddiford (1951) ..	23,760
Mount Kamet by F. S. Smythe (1931)	25,447
Nanda Devi by Tilman & Odell (1936) ..	25,645
Dunagiri by A. Roch (1939)	23,772
Kedarnath by Roch & Sutter (1947) ..	22,772
Bandar Punch by J. T. M. Gibson (1950) ..	20,720
Panch Chuli Peak by P. Nikore (1953) ..	22,650

CONQUEST OF NANGA PARVAT, 28,620 ft.

A. F. Mummery (1895)	20,000
Dr. W. Merkl (1932) ..	23,000
Dr. W. Merkl (1934) ..	26,000
Dr. Karl Wien (1937) ..	21,648
Dr. Paul Bauer (1938)	23,000
Buhl Herman (1953) ..	28,620

HIGHEST INDIAN STRUCTURES

	feet
*Kutub Minar	238
Tower of Victory, Chitore	122
†Victoria Memorial ..	182
Ochterloney Monument Cal.	152
4 minarets of Taj (each)	137
Taj Mahal	178
Char Miner (Hyderabad)	186
Gol Gumbaz (Bijupur) ..	198
Gopuram of Madurai Temple (Largest one) ..	152
Buland Darwaja (Fatehpur Sikri)	176
Rajabai Tower (University), Bombay ..	260
Calcutta High Court ..	180

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* 279 steps.

† from ground level to the base of the victory figure.

OLD & NEW NAMES

Old Names	New Names
Calicut ..	Kozhikode
Cawnpur ..	Kanpur
Muttra ..	Mathura
Benares ..	Banaras
United Provinces ..	Uttar Pradesh
Central Provinces ..	Madhya Pradesh
Amaroti ..	Amaravati
Cocanada ..	Kakinada
Conjeeveram	Kancheepuram
Ellichpur (M.P.) ..	Achalpur
Ellore (Andhra) ..	Eluru
Jubbulpur ..	Jabalpur
Mandi Phul (Pepsu) ..	Pool (Mandi)
Masulipatam	Bandar
Mayaveram (Madras) ..	Mayuram
Ajmere-Merwara ..	Ajmer
Vizagapatnam	Visakhapatnam
Trichinopoly	Tiruchirapally
Bezwada ..	Bijayawada
Ganges ..	Ganga
Madura ..	Madurai
Ramnad (Madras) ..	Ramanathapuram
Sadulgarh (Rajasthan)	Hanumangarh
Saugor (M. P.)	Sagar
Tinnevelly ..	Tirunelveli
Tiruvadi (Madras) ..	Tiruvaiyaru
Mau (Jhansi)	Mau Rampur
Mau (U. P.) ..	Maunath Bhanjan

INDIAN FELLOWS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

A. Carsetji.
S. Ramanujam.
Sir J. C. Bose.
Dr. Megnad Saha.
Sir C. V. Raman.
Dr. Birbal Sahani.
Dr. K. S. Krishnan.
Sir S. Bhatnagar.
Dr. H. J. Bhabha.
Prof. S. Chandrasekhar.
Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis.

INDIANS IN THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT

Sir Muncherjee Bhowanagree (Conservative).
Dadabhai Naoroji (Liberal).
Sapurji Saklatvala (Communist).
Lord Sinha of Raipur (House of Lords).
Lord Sinha, Second Baron of Raipur (House of Lords).

INDIAN PRIVY COUNCILLORS

Syed Ameer Ali.
Sir B. C. Mitter.
1921—V. S. Srinivasa Sastri.
1926—Lord Sinha.
1930—Sir D. F. Mulla.
1931—Sir Shadilal.
1934—Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.
1934—H. H. The Aga Khan.
1986—Sir Akbar Hydari.
1939—Dr. M. R. Jayakar.
1941—Sir C. Madhavan Nair.

INDIAN PEER OF THE BRITISH REALM

Sinha, Aroon Kumar (b. 1887).
Heir—Hon'ble Sudhindra Sinha (b. 1921).

NOBEL PRIZE WINNER

1913—Rabindranath Tagore.

1930—Sir C. V. Raman.

STALIN PEACE PRIZE

1952 .. Dr. Safiuddin Kitchlu
1953 .. Major-General S. S. Sokhey

INDIAN WINNERS OF VICTORIA CROSS

(1) Great War, 1914—1918

Ishar Singh (*Naik*, 28th Punjabis) Waziristan, 1921.

Mir Dost (*Subadar*, Coke's Rifles) Great War, 1915.

Shahamad Khan (*Naik*, 89 Punjabis) Great War, 1916.

Chatta Singh (*Sepoy*, 9th Bhopal Inft.) Great War, 1916.

Darwan Singh Negi (*Naik*, 39th Garhwal Rif.) Great War, 1918.

Karnabahadur Rana (*Naik*, 23rd Gor. Rif.) Great War, 1918.

Khudabad Khan (*Naik*, 129th Balu.) Great War, 1914.

Kulbir Thapa (*Rifleman*, 23rd Gor. Rif.) Great War, 1915.

Lala (*Lance-Naik*, 41st Dogras) Great War, 1916.

Govind Singh (*Lance-Dafadar*, 28th Lancers) Great War, 1918.

Badlu Singh (*Ressaldar*, 14th Cavalry) 1918.

Gabar Singh Negi (*Rifleman*, 39th Garhwal Rif.) Great War, 1915.

(2) World War, 1939—1945

2nd Lt. Premindra Singh Bhagat (*Indian Engineers*) Middle East, 1941.

Subedar Richpal Ram, 6th *Rajputana Rifies* (*Posthumous Award*) Middle East, 1941.

Havildar Prakash Singh, 8th Punjab Regiment, Arakan, 1943.

Havildar-Major Chhelu Ram, 6th Rajputana Rifles (*Posthumous*) Tunisia, 1943.

Lt. Col. A. E. Cumming (12th Frontier Force Rifles, Indian Army), Malaya, 1942.

Habildar Jajee Ghale, 5th Royal Gorkha Rifles, Chin Hills, Burma, 1943.

Jem. Abdul Hafiz, 9th Jat Regt. (*Posthumous Award*) Imphal, July, 1944.

Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa, 2nd Gorkha Rifles, Tunisia, 1943.

Rfn. Bhanbhogta Gurung, 2nd Gorkha Rifles, Burma, 1945.

Rfn. Lacchiman Gurung, 8th Gorkha Rifles.

Lt. Karamjit Singh, 415th Punjab Regiment (*Posthumous*), Burma.

Sepoy Namdeo Jadav, 1st Marhatta Light Infantry, Italy.

Sepoy Ali Haidar, 6th Frontier Force Rifles, Italy, 1945.

Major F. G. Blaker, 9th Gorkha Rifles.

Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regt., Italy, 1944.

Naik Nand Singh; 11th Sikh Regt., Arakan Front, 1944.

Rfn. Ganju Lama, 7th Gorkha Rifles, Imphal, 1944.

TRAINING COLLEGE

Indian Winners of Victoria Cross—(*Contd.*)

Naik Agan Singh Rai, 5th Royal Gorkha Rifles, Bishenpur, Silchar, 1944.

Subedar Netra Bahadur Thapa, 5th Royal Gorkha Rifles (*Posthumous*), Bishenpur, 1944.

Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, 5th Mahratta L. I. (*Posthumous*), Italy.

Rfn. Tul Bahadur Pun., 6th Gorkha Rifles, Burma Front, 1944.

Rfn. Sher Bahadur Thapa, 9th Gorkha Rifles (*Posthumous*), Italy, 1944.

Jem. Ram Sarup Singh, 1st Punjab Regt. Burma (*Posthumous*).

Capt. M. Allmand, 6th Gorkha Rifles (*Posthumous*).

Rfn. Thaman Gurung, 5th Royal Gorkha Rifles, Italy (*Posthumous*).

L. Naik Sher Shah, 7/16th Punjab Regiment, Burma (*Posthumous*).

Naik Gian Singh, 15th Punjabi Regiment, Burma.

Naik Fazal Din, 10th Baluch, Regiment, Burma, (*Posthumous*).

Hav. Umrao Singh, Royal Indian Artillery, Burma.

Sepoy Bhandari Ram, 10th Baluch. Regiment, Burma.

GEORGE MEDAL*

Tenzing Norkey, 1953

WINNERS OF PARAM VIR CHAKRA

(*Republican India's highest decoration for gallantry*)

Major Somnath Sharma, 4th Bn. Kumaon Regt. (*Posthumous*).

L|NK Karam Singh, 1st Bn. Sikh Regiment.

2|Lt. Rama Raghoba Rane, Corps of Engineers.

Com. Hav-major Piru Singh, *Rajputana Rifles*, 1953.

GOVERNOR-GENERALS OF INDIAN UNION

Lord Louis Mauntbatten 1947-48

C. Rajagopalachari 1948-49

PRESIDENT, INDIAN UNION

Dr. Rajendra Prasad 1950

INDIAN PARLIAMENT

House of the People: Speaker—G. V. Malvankar 1952.
Council of States: President—Dr. S. Radhakrishnan 1952.

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*One of the highest British civilian awards for gallantry, given only for acts of the greatest heroism or the most conspicuous courage.

PRESIDENTS, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, INDIA

Sir Frederick Whyte (1920-25).
V. J. Patel (1925-30).
Sir Curimbhoy Ibrahim (1930).
Sir Sanmukham Chetty (1930-33).
Sir Abdur Rahim (1933-45).
G. V. Mavlankar (1946-47).

SPEAKER, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, 1947—1949.

INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENTS

(First Session, 1885)

1885—Bombay—W. C. Bonnerji.
1886—Calcutta—Dadabhai Naoroji.
1887—Madras—B. Tyabji.
1888—Allahabad—George Yule.
1889—Bombay—Sir W. Wedderburn.
1890—Calcutta—Sir P. Mehta.
1891—Nagpur—P. Ananda Charlu.
1892—Allahabad—W. C. Bonnerji.
1893—Lahore—Dadabhai Naoroji.
1894—Madras—Alfred Webb.
1895—Poona—S. N. Banerji.
1896—Calcutta—R. M. Sayani.
1897—Amraoti—C. Sankaran Nair.
1898—Madras—A. M. Bose.
1899—Lucknow—R. C. Dutt.
1900—Lahore—N. G. Chandravarkar.
1901—Calcutta—D. E. Wacha.
1902—Ahmedabad—S. N. Banerji.
1903—Madras—Lalmohan Ghose.
1904—Bombay—Sir Henry Cotton.
1905—Benares—G. K. Gokhale.
1906—Calcutta—Dadabhai Naoroji.
1907—Surat—Rash Behari Ghose.
1908—Madras—Rash Behari Ghose.
1909—Lahore—Pt. M. M. Malaviya.
1910—Allahabad—Sir W. Wedderburn.
1911—Calcutta—Bishen N. Dar.
1912—Patna—R. N. Mudholkar.
1913—Karachi—Nawab Saiyed Muhammad.
1914—Madras—B. N. Bose.
1915—Bombay—Sir S. P. Sinha.
1916—Lucknow—A. C. Majumdar.
1917—Calcutta—Annie Besant.
1918—Bombay (Spl.)—Hasan Imam.
1918—Delhi—Pt. M. M. Malaviya.
1919—Amritsar—Pt. Motilal Nehru.
1920—Calcutta (Spl.)—Lala Lajpat Rai.
1920—Nagpur—C. Vijaraghavachariar.
1921—Ahmedabad—Hakim Ajmal Khan.
1922—Gaya—C. R. Das.
1923—Delhi (Spl.)—Abul Kalam Azad.
1923—Cocanada—Mahomed Ali.
1924—Belgaum—M. K. Gandhi.
1925—Cawnpore—Sarojini Naidu.
1926—Gauhati—Srinivasa Iyengar.
1927—Madras—Dr. M. A. Ansari.

Date.......... ~~6000~~ 6100

Indian National Congress Presidents—(*Cocld.*)

1928—Calcutta—Pt. Moti'al Nehru.
1929—Lahore—J. L. Nehru
1931—Karachi—Sardar V. Patel.
1932—Delhi—Seth Ranchhodlal.
1933—Calcutta—Mrs. Nellie Sen Gupta.
1934—Bombay—Rajendra Prasad.
1935—Lucknow—J. L. Nehru.
1937—Faizpur—J. L. Nehru.
1938—Tripuri—Subhas Bose.
1940—Ramgarh—A. K. Azad.
1946—J. L. Nehru.
1946—Meerut—J. B. Kripalani
1947—Dr. Rajendra Prasad.
1948—Jaipur—Dr. P. Sitaramiyya.
1950—Nasik—P. D. Tandon (resigned).
1951—Meerut—J. L. Nehru.
1952—Hyderabad—J. L. Nehru.
1953—Kalyani—J. L. Nehru.

INDIAN CHRONOLOGY

B.C.
3000—Mohenjo-daro and Harappa civilisation.
2900 to 1500—Period of Vedic civilization.
563-483—Birth and death of Buddha.
540-468—Traditional dates of birth and death of Mahavira.
377—Buddhist Council at Baisali.
326—Alexander's Invasion of India.
324—Rise of Maurya dynasty.
305—Seleucus Nicator defeated by Chandra Gupta Mayurya.
273—Accession of Asoka.
259—Missionaries sent to foreign lands by Asoka.
58—Beginning of Vikrama era.

A.D.
320-500—Gupta dynasty; Golden Age of Indian art, science and literature.
320—Accession of Samudra Gupta.
405-11—Fa Hien travels in Gupta Empire.
448—First Hun invasion.

A.D.
480-90—Break up of Gupta Empire.
606-647—Reign of Harsavardhan.
643—Hiuen Tsang arrives in India.
712—Arab conquest of Sind.
731—Yasovarman's embassy to China.
1001—First Muslim invasion of India by Mahmud of Ghazni.
1038—Atisa sent on Buddhist mission to Tibet.
1192—Defeat and death of Prithviraj, the last Rajput King of Delhi.
1194—Jai Chand, the King of Kanauj defeated by Qutb-ud-din at Chandwara.
1228—Conquest of Assam by the Ahoms.
1236—Death of Iltutmish—Accession of Raziyya.
1236—Foundation of Vijayanagar Kingdom.
1347—Foundation of Bahmani Kingdom of Deccan.
1351—Accession of Bahlol Lodi to throne of Deccan.

Indian Chronology—(*Concld.*)

1469—Birth of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikh religion.
1494—Foundation of Agra by Sikandar Lodi.
1498—Vasco da Gama reaches Calicut.
1510—Portuguese capture Goa.
1526—Establishment of Mughal Empire by Babar.
1530—Death of Sher Shah.
1565—Battle of Talikota—overthrow of the Vijayanagar Kingdom.
1586—Annexation of Kashmir by Akbar.
1597—Death of Maharana Pratap.
1600—East India Company founded under Royal Charter.
1605—Death of Akbar.
1627—Birth of Sivaji.
1707—Death of Aurangzeb.
1757—Battle of Plassey: English becomes master of Bengal.
1751—Third battle of Panipath.
1765—Grant of Dewani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to E. I. Co.
1774—Regulating Act enforced in India.
1780—Ranjit Singh establishes a Sikh Empire.
1790—Third Mysore War.
1793—Permanent settlement of Bengal.
1814-16—Anglo-Gorkha War.
1830—Rammohan Ray visits England.
1857—Indian Mutiny.
1858—Transfer of India from Company to the Crown.
1869—Birth of Mahatma Gandhi.
1885—First Meeting of the Indian National Congress.
1905—Partition of Bengal.
1914—Gandhi returns to India from South Africa.
1919—Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms; Jalianwalabag massacrae at Amritsar (13th April).
1920—1st Non-Co-operation Movement in India.
1930—Mahatma Gandhi launches C. D. Movement—1st session of the Round Table Conference.
1931—Gandhi-Irwin Pact.
1935—New Government of India Act.
1937—Inauguration of Provincial Autonomy.
1942—Cripps Mission—Quit India Movement.
1946—Cabinet Mission Plan—First Session of the Indian Constituent Assembly.
1947—Partition of India—India becomes independent—Kashmir attacked by Pakistan.
1948—Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi (Jan. 30).
India appeals to U.N. to stop aggression by Pakistan in Kashmir (Jan. 2).
1949—India's New Constitution passed into law.
1950—India becomes Republic (26th Jan.).

NOTABLE INDIANS

	Born	*Died*
Sir K. Seshadri Iyer ..	1845	1901
M. G. Ranade, *Social Reformer, Scholar and Jurist* ..	1842 (18 Jan.)	1901

Dr. Mahendralal Sarkar	1833		1904	
Sir J. N. Tata	1839		1904	
Devendranath Tagore	1817		1905	
A. M. Bose	1847		1906	
W. C. Bonerjee, *1st Cong. President*	1844		1906	(19 July)
P. Ananda Charlu	1842		1908	
Sir B. Bashyam Iyengar	..		1908	
Lalmohan Ghose, *Congress President*	1849		1909	
R. C. Dutt	1848		1909	(30 Nov.)
Girish Chandra Ghosh, *Dramatist*	1843		1911	
G. K. Gokhale, *statesman, founder of Servants of India Society*	1866		1915	
Sir Pherozeshah Mehta	1845		1915	
Bal Gangadhar Tilak	1856		1920	
S. Ramanujam, *Mathematician*	..		1920	
Sir Rashbehari Ghose	1845		1921	
Ambica C. Majumdar, *Congress President*	1851		1922	
Aswini Kumar Dutta	1856		1923	
Sir N. G. Chandavarkar	1855		1923	
Sir Asutosh Mukherjee	1864	(29 June)	1924	(25 May)
C. R. Das	1870		1925	
Sir S. N. Banerjee	1848		1925	
Sir R. G. Bhandarkar	1873		1925	
Lala Lajpat Rai, *Indian Patriot*	1865		1928	
Lord Sinha of Raipur	1863		1928	
Syed Ameer Ali	1849		1929	
Pt. Matilal Nehru	1861		1931	
J. M. Sen Gupta	1885		1933	(23 July)
Sir Ali Imam	1869		1932	
V. J. Patel	..		1933	
Sir Sankaran Nair	..		1933	
Dr. M. A. Ansari	1880		1936	
Sir R. N. Mookerjee	1854		1936	
Sir J. C. Bose	1858		1937	
Sarat Chandra Chatterjee	1867		1938	
Sir Muhammad Iqbal	1877		1938	
Sir Brojendranath Seal	1864		1938	
Rabindranath Tagore	1861		1941	
Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru	1875		1948	
Mahatma Gandhi	1869	(20 Oct.)	1948	(30 Jan.)
Sarojini Naidu	1879	(13 Feb.)	1949	
Sri Aurobindo	1872	(15 Aug.)	1950	(5 Dec.)
Sardar V. Patel	1875		1950	(15 Dec.)
Kristodas Pal, *Politician*	1834		1884	
Keshab Ch. Sen, *Religious reformer*	1838		1884	
Syed Ahmed Khan	1817		1898	
Bipin Chandra Pal	1858		1932	
Dr. Shyama P. Mukerjee	1901		1953	(23 June)

Srinivasa Shastri ..	1869	1946
Dadabhai Naoroji ..	1825	1917
Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar ..	1820	1891
Raja Rammohan Roy ..	1774	1833
Ramkrishna Paramhansa ..	1834	1886
Dayanand Saraswati ..	1824	1882
Bankim Ch. Chatterjee, *Bengali novelist* ..	1838	1894
Swami Vivekananda ..	1862	1902
Michael Madhu Sudhan Dutt ..	1824	1873
Rajendralala Mitra, *Historian*	1824	1891
Taru Dutt, Indian Poetess	1856	1877

SENIOR BASIC TRAINING COLLEGE ★ KANPUR ★

INDIAN POLITICAL PARTIES

Indian National Congress—With the dawn of Independence, the Congress has now become a purely political party. The object of the Indian National Congress as adopted in 1948 is now "the well-being and advancement of the people of India and the establishment in India by peaceful and legitimate means of a Co-operative Commonwealth based on equality of opportunity and of political, economic and social rights and aiming at world peace and fellowship."

All India Muslim League—Started in 1906 for securing special safeguards and privileges for Muslims; was successful in securing separate communal representation in 1909; put forward in 1940 the demand for Pakistan which was eventually accepted; its success was due to its spreading two-nations theory which had to a great extent been responsible for its being able to bring within its fold as followers the majority of the Muslims in India. Had no definite political or economic objective, except the establishment of Pakistan. After the establishment of Pakistan, Muslim League split into two: Pakistan Muslim League and Indian Union Muslim League. In Pakistan it is the government party and in India it is a small political party in some provincial legislatures. The Indian counterpart has by resolution given up communal politics.

Communist Party of India—Founded in 1924. Once a left-wing party within the Congress, it was disaffiliated due to the party's support for the war and its attitude towards the August Revolution. The party moulds its policy with reference to the policy of Russia in international affairs, rather than according to the conditions obtaining in India. They look to Russia for guidance and inspiration. The party's aim is "the organisation of the toiling masses in the struggle for the victorious anti-imperialist and agrarian revolution for complete national independence, for the establishment of a people's democratic state led by the working class, for the realisation of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and the building up of Socialism according to the teachings of Maxism and Leninism."

It calls for the confiscation and nationalisation of all foreign capital, complete withdrawal from the British Commonwealth of Nations and a united front with 'peace-loving countries and friendship with them," having first brought about a cessation of flirtation between world power *blocs* and leanings towards United States of America."

Proja Socialist Party—Congress Socialist Party, was started in 1934 within the Congress; but in 1947 it completely broke away from the Congress and dropped the word *Congress* from the nomenclature of the party. The object of the party as affirmed in Kanpur Conference of 1947—"In the Socialist society of our conception, the individual, *i.e.*, the worker is free and the State has no power to deprive him of his rights and privileges except through the processes of law. Economic power, *i.e.*, the power to plan production, the power to determine the condition of work, prices, the distribution of the national produce—all these powers are held not exclusively by the State bureauceracy but shared by Trade Unions, co-operative and other suitable representative bodies of working men...." In the 1951 general elections, the party suffered a heavy defeat; so in 1952 Socialist Party and Krishak-Mazdur Praja Party established by Acharya Kripalani merged into one party and this new party has been named Praja Socialist Party.

Forward Bloc— Came into existence in 1938 when Mr. Subhas Bose sought to rally leftists against the Congress orthodoxy. It favours a programme of direct action and repudiates all compromise. The party's objective now is the establishment of Socialist State in India with complete severence of relations from the British Commonwealth.

Forward Bloc (Marxist)—This is a group which has severed its connection with the parent body and has formed a new party on January 23, 1950. The Desh Sevak Party of Punjab merged into it.

Bharat Sevak Samaj—New national organisation brought into existence as a result of government initiative. It is a scheme evolved to rally all patriots for the task of quickly building up economic strength of the country promoting the social well-being of the community and mitigating privations and hardship of its less-favoured sections. It is not a political organisation. It welcomes into its fold men of all throughts save those who believe in destroying the present order of things by violent methods and those who want to perpetuate the present day social injustice by believing in communal and sectarian idealism.

National Liberal Federation—was formed in 1908 when the moderates broke away from the Congress and formed a separate party. It advocated gradual progress through peaceful and constitutional means as opposed to the revolutionary creed and policy of the Congress. Their policy is very 'moderate' that it has never found support of the Indian masses. It represents a doctrine which has no place in a dynamic India. The Liberals are opposed to direct action of any sort. They are wedded to constitutional forms of agitation whatever they may mean.

Scheduled Caste Federation—Party was established by Dr. Ambedkar. It has no political or economic platform. It has centred all its agitation for demanding extraordinary privileges. After partition it has changed its outlook.

Hindu Mahasabha—The aim of the Mahasabha is the protectio and promotion of all that contributes to the advancement, strengt and glory of Hindu Rashtra, Hindu culture and Hindu polity, an as a means to that end, to achieve Hindu Raj and re-establish th integrity of the State of Bharat by constitutional means.

Peasants and Workers Party—The party's programme include "severance of all connection with British imperialism, abolition c landlordism without compensation, confiscation of foreign capita invested in banks and industries." The programme also urge nationalisation of big industries, banks and insurance companies an the re-organisation of States on a linguistic basis. This is a Marxist Leniniest Party following the guidance of Cominform.

Democratic Vanguard—This party was formed in 1943 by thos who seceded from the Radical Democratic Party. Its object is th "attainment of the democratic revolution" in India.

Rastriya Swayam Sevak Sangh—It was started in 1925. It objects are the military training of the Hindus, development of socia consciousness and building up of character, and promotion of phys cal, intellectual and moral well-being of the Hindus and th establishment of Hindu Rashtra. The party has now stated its mai objective as revival of Hindu culture.

Socialist Republican Party—was started by late Sarat Chandr Bose in 1948 with the object of complete independence of India fre from all foreign influences. The setting up of Socialist Republic o the linguistic basis and the establishment in the country of a Unio of Socialist Republics are the main objects of the party.

Sarvodaya Samaj—A fellowship of those who believe in th Gandhian ideals. It is not an organisation but a voluntary brotherhood of constructive workers who have faith in Gandhian ideals c truth and non-violence. Its central idea is the insistence on th purity of means in the same way as of ends. Khadi, Harijan uplift, service to Adibasis, leprosy relief work and Promotion of communal harmony form the main activities of Samaj.

Revolutionary Socialistic Party of India—Preaches Marxist doctrine and wants to establish a socialist state in India throug revolution.

Revolutionary Communist Party of India—another Marxis party in India which calls itself Leninnist, which characterizes Congress as bourgeois organisation. It is anti-Soviet with Tortskyit leanings.

Kishan Party—Is a peasant movement with socialistic outloo Its programme is the amelioration of the Indian peasants. Thoug separate from the Congress, its programme is identical wit Congress.

All India Muslim Majlis—Progressive Nationalist Party c Muslims, was opposed to creation of Pakistan and supporters c Congress ideals.

Jamiat-ul-ulema-Hind—An organisation of Moslem divines an religious teachers. It has always supported the political programm of the Congress. It was a supporter of Indian independence on religious grounds. It has now dropped its political programme.

Shia Political Conference—Represents Shia Moslems and is the most important minority among the supporters of the Congress.

Momin Ansar Conference—Its main policy has centred on opposition to Muslim League and to Pakistan. The Conference is the full supporter of Congress politics.

Jan Sangh—Formed by Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee with the object of fighting the Congress in the general elections.

Other Parties—During General Election of 1951 in India numerous parties came into being, both Indiawide or provincial. The following are some of the parties which took part in the elections—*Ram Raya Parishad*, *Akali Party*, *Lal Communists*, *Zamindara League*, *Krishikar Lok Party*, *Gorkha League*, *Jharkand Party* (Chota Nagpur), *Justice Party* (Madras), *Commonwealth Party*, *Tamilnad Toilers Party*, *Ganatantra Parisad* (Orissa), *Janata Party*, (Bihar), *Peasants and Workers Party*, etc.

FIRST IN INDIA

Largest River—Indus.
Largest Lake—Wular Lake, Kashmir.
Highest Peak in India—Nanda Devi (25,660 feet).
Largest populated City—Calcutta (29,11,209); including Howrah 33,44,839.
Highest Waterfull—Gersoppa Waterfall, Mysore, (960 ft. high).
Largest State—Madhya Pradesh, 1,30,272 sq. mile.
Highest rainfall—Cherrapunji, 426 in average.
Largest Forest Province—Assam.
Largest Delta—Sundarbans Delta (8,000 sq. miles).
Longest Cantilever Span Bridge—Howrah Bridge.
Largest Cave Temple—Ellora, Hyderabad.
Longest Corridor—Rameswaram Temple Corridor (4,000 ft. long).
Largest Mosque—Jumma Masjid, Delhi.
Longest Bridge—Sone Bridge.
Highest Dam—Bakhra Dam (680 ft. High).
Largest Sugar-cane producing area—Uttar Pradesh.
Most literate parts of India—Travancore-Cochin.
Longest electric train—Bombay to Poona.
Highest Gateway—Buland Darwaja (Fatehpur Sikri, 176 ft. high).
Tallest Statue—Statue of Gomateswar (Mysore) 56 ft. high.
Longest Platform—Sonepur Platform. (N. E. R.).
Longest Road—Grand Trunk Rd. (1,500 miles).
Highest Tower—Kutab Minar, Delhi.
Largest Dome—Gol Gambuz, Bijapur.
Largest Fair of Animals—Sonepur fair.
Largest Zoo—Zoological Gardens, Alipur, Calcutta.
Largest Museum—Indian Museum, Calcutta.
Most Populated State—Uttar Pradesh.

FIRST BEGINNINGS IN INDIA

1825—First issue of postal stamp in India in Sind.

1851—First official telegraph line opened for traffic between Calcutta and Diamond Harbour, October.

1853—First Indian Railway was run between Bombay and Kalyan, 16th April.

1897-98—First electric plant installed at Darjeeling.

1911—First air-mail in India and the world from Bamrauli to Naini (Allahabad).

1929—First issue of air-mail stamp in India and the world.

FIRST AMONG INDIANS

Indian Governor—Lord Sinha of Raipur.

F.R.S.—A. Carsetji.

Congress President—W. C. Bonnerjee.

Nobel Prize winner—Rabindranath Tagore.

I.C.S.—Satyendranath Tagore.

Bar-at-Law—J. M. Tagore.

Judge High Court—Ramaprosad Roy.

Member, Viceroy's Executive Council—Sir S. P. Sinha.

Member of the India Council—K. G. Gupta.

Peer of the Br. Realm—Lord Sinha.

Wrangler of the Cambridge University—A. M. Bose.

1st *Woman President of U.N.*—Vijayalakshmi Pandit.

1st Woman Minister of the Legislative Assembly—Mrs. Vijoyalakshmi Pandit, Minister of U.P.

Woman President of the Congress—Mrs. Sarojini Naidu.

1st in I.C.S. Exam.—Sir Atul Chatterjee.

Member of the Br. Parliament—Dadabhai Naoroji.

Winner of the Victoria Cross—Khudadad Khan.

Member of the Privy Council—Syed Ameer Ali.

Member of the House of Lords—Lord Sinha.

Commander-in-Chief—General Cariappa.

I.M.S.—Dr. Goodeve Chuckravarti.

Woman M.A.—Chandramukhi Bose.

Test cricket player—K. S. Ranjitsinjhi.

1st Woman Barrister—Mrs. Cornelia Sorabji.

HILL STATIONS

Nainital—is a hill sanatorium in Kumaun Hills, picturesquely situated on the shores of a beautiful lake. This lake has a superficial area of about 120·5 acres and a mile in diameter. A favourite summer resort. Altitude 6,350 ft. It is reached from Kathgodam on the North-Eastern Railway 22 miles distant.

Mussoorie—Is a hill sanatorium, on the southern slopes of the Himalayas, 14 miles from Dehra Dun. From Dehra Dum to Mussoorie by motor cars. Altitude 6,600 ft. above sea level. Nearest railway station is Dehra Dun.

Lansdowne—Is situated in Garhwal about half way between Mussoorie and Nainital. It commands a wonderful view of snows, the Badrinath block being nearest. It is reached by Northern Ry. to Kotdwara *via* Najibabad junction and there is good service of motor cars, a distance of 26 miles; altitude 6,060 feet.

Almora—In Kumaun Hills. Altitude 5,500 ft. above sea level. Mean annual rainfall 45·55 inches; fine views of snow. From Almora some of the highest peaks of the western Himalayas can be seen against the horizon. The main attraction for hickers is the famous Pindari glacier. Almora to Pindari glacier is 6 miles. Nearest railway station is Kathgodam.

Bhowali—is situated at a height of about 5,600 feet, and is only seven miles from Nainital. Bhowali is famous for its T. B. Sanatorium and is export centre for the famous Himalayan fruits.

Bhimtal—just a little over 14 miles from Nainital is Bhimtal, enveloping a pretty lake which provides an excellent fishing centre.

Bangalore—The cantonment is the largest in South India. Bangalore has big industries, large parks and fine public buildings. Altitude 3,000 ft. above sea level.

Coonoor—on the Nilgiri Hills in the Madras Presidency: Altitude 6,740 ft. above sea level. Nearest railway station is Coonoor. It is reached from Ootacamund by rail.

Cherrapunji—is 30 miles south of Shillong and receives more rainfall than any other place in the world, the annual average being 126 inches. The nearest railway station is Pandu; altitude 4,455 ft.

Mukteshwar—A beauty spot in the Kumaon Hills. It offers a remarkable view of the surrounding valleys and the mountain gradually rising up to their snowcapped glory. The Government of India Veterinary Research Institute is located here.

Ranikhet—is about 40 miles from Nainital and 50 miles from the railway terminus of Kathgodam. It is 6100 ft. high. Set amidst pine clad hills, it is more or less a veritable garden town and commands an excellent view of the snows.

Pindari Glacier—is famous all over the world. It is five days march from the motor head at Almora. Situated at the heart of the Himalayas, the Pindari Glacier is more magnificent that Jang Frau of Switzerland.

Mount Abu—Is reached by a good motor road from Abu Road Railway station. The range is about 50 miles in circumference. The climate is very healthy and delightfully cool. The average temperature is 60°. Altitude 4,500 ft. above sea level. It is a place of pilgrimage for Jains, for here are celebrated Dilwara temples containing some of the finest specimens of Jain carving in India, whilst the temples themselves are prominent alike for their beauty and as typical examples of Jain architecture.

Gulmarg—is at a distance of 30 miles from Srinagar, and is one of the finest pleasure resorts of Kashmir, popular for skiing, trekking and other winter sports.

Dalhousie—Altitude 7,867 ft. above sea level and 51 miles from Pathankot railway station reached by motor road.

Darjeeling—Altitude, 7,168 ft. above sea level, magnificent snow views of Mount Everest (29,002 ft.) and Kanchanjangha (28,104 ft.) The minimum temperature in winter is about 30°. It is the centre of a large tea district. It is 369 miles from Calcutta.

Kalimpong—Hill station near Darjeeling. It is also reached from Siliguri by motor (41 miles). 4,000 ft. high.

Kodaikanal—A hill station in Southern India on the upper range of the Pulney Hills in the Madurai district. It is 7,000 ft. above the sea level. The nearest railway station is Kodaikanal Road.

Kasauli—A cantonment and convalescent depot in the Simla district situated on the crest of a hill overlooking Kalka Valley, 22 miles from Kalka by motor road. Famous for Pasteur Institute, altitude 6,200 ft.

Kulu & Kangra Valleys—lie at the foot of the Dhaula Dhar Range of the Himalayas. Kangra, Jogindernagar, Chamba, Dharmsala, Dalhousie and Kulu are some of the chief holiday resorts. Kulu and Kangra valleys are known for their orchards and tea plantations. The valley is about 4,700 ft. high. The main route is *via Pathankot*. Pathankot to Kudu is a distance of 175 miles by motor. The valley is called the Valley of the Gods due to every village having its own God.

Otacamund—is the leading hill station of South India, situated in the heart of Nilgiris. Altitude 7,500 ft. above sea level. Mean annual day temperature is 57·50°F.

Mahabaleswar—Principal hill station of the Bombay Presidency and summer retreat of the Bombay Government. Altitude 4,500 ft. above sea level. Nearest railway station is Poona, 75 miles.

Matheran—Nearest hill station of Bombay. It is only 2,650 ft. high.

Pachmarhi—in Hosangabad, Madhya Pradesh, is 32 miles from Pipariya Station on Central Ry. The place is only two hours distant by excellent motor road from the railway station of Pipariya. Pachmarhi rise 3,500 ft. above sea level. Pachmarhi derives its name from the "Panch marhi" or 'five huts'—actually five caves on a little hillock. Hindu tradition ascribes them to the five Pandava brothers who were supposed to have rested there in the course of their wanderings. But probably the caves were constructed in earlier Buddhist times.

Ranchi—Altitude 2,100 ft. above sea level. Mean annual day temperature is 74·9°S. Nearest railway station is Ranchi.

Shillong—is on the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. It is headquarters of the Assam Government. Altitude 4,980 ft. above sea level. Average temperature in midsummer rarely reaches 80°F. Cherrapunji, 30 miles south of Shillong holds the world record for rainfall, average 426 inches per annum (in 1861 the rainfall at Cherrapunji was 905 inches). Nearest railway station is Pandu (68 miles).

Simla—is perched on the spurs of the lower Himalayas at a height of 7,000 feet. It is reached by mountain railway connecting Kalka and Simla. Mean temperature is 55°F, and annual rainfall is 70". It is now the capital of Himachal Pradesh.

Elevations of Leading Health or Pleasure Resorts

	feet		feet
Nainital (U.P.)	6,350	Ootacamund (Madras)	7,500
Mussoorie (U.P.)	6,600	Mahabaleswar (Bom.)	4,500
Mount Abu (Rajasthan)	4,500	Amarnath (Kashmir)	13,000
Almora (U.P.)	5,500	Kasauli (Simla)	6,200
Darjeeling (W. Bengal)	7,168	Metheran (Bom.)	2,650
Kalimpong (W. Bengal)	4,000	Pachmarthi (M.P.)	3,500
Bangalore (Mysore)	3,000	Shillong (Assam)	4,909
Coonoor (Madras)	6,740	Simla (Panjab)	7,000
Dalhousie (U.P.)	7,060	Srinagar (Kashmir)	5,250
Lansdowne (U.P.)	6,060	Ranchi (Bihar)	2,100
Kadaikanal (Madras)	7,000		

PLACES OF INTEREST IN INDIA

Agra—Famous for Taj Mahal and Agra Fort which contain all the glories of Mughal Empire, such as Dewani Khas, Moti Masjid, Jasmine Tower, Dewani-i-am, also tomb of Akbar at Sekandra and Itmud-ud-Dowla.

Amarnath—Situated at a height of nearly 13,000 ft. in Kashmir where thousands of Hindus make pilgrimage in August. There is a motor service from Srinagar upto Pahalgam (7,200 ft.), 60 miles from Kashmir where motor road ends. The cave is about 50 ft. high and 50 ft. deep situated between two huge mountains known as Kailash and Bhaira. At the back of the cave are several ice stalagmites in the shape of *lingams*—the frozen image of gods Siva, Parvati, Kartik and Ganesh, all self-made images of ice.

Aurangabad—Famous district and town in the Nizam's State where world-renowned temples and monastic caves of Ellora and Ajanta are located. There is also the historical fort of Daulatabad, the Raoza which contains the tomb of the great Mughal Emperor Aurangazeb and the magnificent tomb of Aurangazeb's wife, Bibi-ka-Naghara, replica of the Taj Mahal of Agra. From the city of Aurangabad all these places can be visited. It is a station on Southern Railway and 71 miles from Manmad on Western Ry.

Amritsar—is situated in the north-west of the Punjab at a distance of only sixteen miles from Wagah, the outpost of the Indo-Pakistan border. It is famous for Sikh golden temple, the most sacred to the Sikhs and the tank called the pool of immortality. The pool is enclosed by a wide marble-paved quadrangle 204 ft. long with an archway over it. In the centre of the pool is the Temple, a square building with marble inlaid walls and dome-shaped roof, under which shaded by a silken canopy lies *Granth Sahib*, the holy book of the Sikhs. It is also famous for gold and silver thread, carpets, silks and *pashmina* materials. It derived its name from the sacred tank on which the golden temple is situated. The town stands on the main route of the Northern Railway. About two furlongs from the Golden Temple is the world-famous Jalllianwala Bagh.

Ajmer—A city of antiquity and celebrity. Ana Sagar Lake is famous for its picturesque surroundings. The place is famous for Darga Khwaja Sahib, the tomb of the famous Muslim saint Muin-ud-din Chishti. The shrine contains the large drums and candle-sticks taken by Akbar at the siege of Chitor and two mosques, one built by Akbar and the other by Shah Jahan. At seven miles distance, there is Pushkar, the most sacred lake of India. Ajmer lies on the railway between Delhi and Ahmedabad.

Buddha Gaya—Seven miles from Gaya is the sacred Buddhist site of Buddha Gaya, where under a *bodhi-tree*, Buddha conquered Mara and attained Buddhahood. King Asoka erected a temple near the tree. The temple at Buddha Gaya consists of a main tower, raising to a height of 180 ft. in the form of a slender pyramid.

Bhubaneswar—The new capital of Orissa State; contains the famous *Lingaraj Temple*, *Mukteswar Temple* and *Parasurameswar Temple*, and other temples such as *Bhagavati*, *Parvati*, *Ananat Vasudeva*, etc. On the hills known as Udaigiri and Khandagiri, a few miles from Bhuvaneswar, are caves once occupied by Jain monks, containing remarkable carvings, the earliest of which date to the second century B.C.

Banaras—Sacred city of the Hindus, contains numerous temples. The view of the ghats is magnificent, close by is the famous Hindu University. Six miles from the city is the Saranath where in the Mrigadava or Deer Park, Buddha first preached his doctrine.

Chittorgarh—Famous for the *Tower of Victory*—contains wonderful Rajput ruins. It is the old capital of Sisodhiya Rajputs, the proud descendants of the sun-god who were rulers of Udaipur. The Tower of Victory was built by Rana Kumbha in commemoration of his many victories over Mughal invaders. It lies on the direct railway route from Ratlam to Ajmer.

Delhi—Capital of India since 1911, was the capital of seven Empires. Some of the famous relics are—Red fort with Imperial Palace of Shah Jahan, two Audience Halls, Rangmahal, the Hamam, Pearl Mosque and the Mumtaz Mahal inside it, Jumma Masjid, Kutub Minar, Ferozabad, Indraprastha, Tuglukabad etc. Other places of interest are Tomb of Humayun, famous mosques and historic city walls. It occupies a strategic position, standing at the head of the plains of the Ganges and the Indus, the headquarters of all important railway lines of India.

Fathepur Sikri—Short distance of 24 mils from Agra, founded by Akbar in A.D. 1569 in a lonely eminence on the spot where saint Salim Chishti foretold the birth of a son of Akbar. After Akbar's death, the city was deserted within fifty years of its foundation, the reason being lack of water. Interesting places are, imposing pile of great mosque measuring 542 ft. east and 438 ft. north and south, the tomb of Saint Sheikh Salim Chisti, houses of Akbar's wives Miriam and Jodhbhai. *Panch Mahals*—the building of five storeys, Hiran Minar, Buland Darwaza, the famous sand-stone chamber of *Diwani Khas* etc. In the Pachisi Court, laid out in red sandstone squares, he used to play chess with slave girls as pieces. This is the city of sandstone, the specimen of the finest Mughal architecture.

Hampi (or Vijayanagar)—The ruins of this ancient city cover-ng an extent of about 10 sq. miles on the south bank of Tungahadra river near Hospet railway station on the Guntakul-Hubli secion of the Southern Railway is a witness to the rise and fall of this orgotten Hindu Empire which is said to be the finest and the greatest in South India. Hampi is the ruins of Vijayanagar, the ancient capital of Vijaynagar Empire. The ruins are virtually a vast open-air museum of Hindu monuments in the Dravidian style of architcture.

Jaipur—The most typical Hindu city built of pink stone, was founded in 1728 by Sawai Jai Singh II. There is also the famous observatory built about 1718 by the Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh. *Hawa Mahal, Ram Niwas gardens, Albert Hall and Museum* are the interesting places to visit. Seven miles from Jaipur is Amber, a deserted city with an old royal palace overlooking the lake at the entrance to a rocky mountain gorge where Rajput architecture can be seen at its best. Jaipur is famous for brass works, stone carving, ivory and sandalwood work, etc.

Jabalpur—616 miles from Bombay with an elevation of 1,362 ft. The Marble Rocks are situated 13 miles from Jabalpur.

Kanyakumari—The temple of Kanyakumari (the Virgin Goddess) is situated at Cape Comorin. This is the apex of the Indian peninsula, where Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean meet. This is one of the most picturesque spots of India.

Patna—is the capital of Bihar and it spreads eight miles along the Ganga. Things worth seeing at Patna are the huge beehive shaped Gola 90 ft. high and 420 ft. at the base. It was built at the time of Warren Hastings for the granary; Khuda Buksh Oriental Library is famous for its rare collection of Arabic and Persian manuscripts; the ancient city of Pataliputra lies buried under Patna which was once the capital of Chandragupta Maurya. It was also the capital of Asoka.

Madurai—was the capital of Pandiyan Kings and became famous in the 17th century under the Nayak kings. The huge temple of Madurai known as *Minakshi Temple* (Goddess with fish eyes) is the most famous of the South Indian temples and one of the finest edifices of Dravidian architecture. It is dedicated to Siva and his espouse Minakshi. The temple forms a parallelogram, 850 ft. by 750 ft. and is surrounded by nine gopurams one of which is 150 ft. high. The most elaborate stone carving is found in the Hall of a Thousand Pillars. The other important buildings are all associated with the name of Tirumala Naik whose palace is the perfect specimen of secular architecture in Madras-State.

Pushkar—is famous for its lake and fair which is held in October-November. The lake is regarded as most sacred in India and the temple of Brahma close to the lake is supposed to mark the spot where the incarnation of the God took place.

Kashmir—Altitude varies from 5,000 to 6,000 ft. Srinagar is the summer capital. It is 5,200 ft. with an area 11 sq. miles; mean temperature in January and February is 25°F. Srinagar is now reached by motor road *via* Pathankot. Srinagar lies along the banks of Jhelum which is crossed by seven bridges. Kashmir has beautiful Mughal gardens built by the Mughal Emperors of Delhi, such as *Shalimar gardens*, *Nishat Bag*, *Nasim Bag* and *Chashme Shahi*. Following are the heights of some prominent places of Kashmir—Srinagar 5,200 ft.; Gulmarg 8,700 ft.; Phalgam 7,000 ft.; Amarnath 13,000 ft. Places worth seeing in Kashmir are—Phalgam 60 miles from Srinagar; Dal Lake; Amarnath—97 miles from Srinagar.

Lucknow—is the capital of Uttar Pradesh. The grandeur of the city dates from Asaf-ud-daula, the fourth Nawab. Lucknow is known as the city of gardens. Outstanding among its buildings are the great Imambara with a hall 162 ft. long and 54 ft. wide, the Husainabad Imambara, Rumi Darwaza, Chattar Manzil and the Wingfield Park.

Nalanda—Nalanda University was founded in the epoch of the Gupta kings and became one of the largest universities of Asia. Hien Tsang, the well-known Chinese traveller who studied at the university in the 7th century has left glowing accounts of its activities. It consisted of 10,000 scholars lodged in special hostels endowed by foreign kings. Instruction was provided in separate colleges with a vast library spread over three buildings. It flourished for 700 years until destroyed by fire by foreign invaders in the 12th century A.D. 29 miles eastwards on the road from Patna stands Bakhtiarpur. Here a road branches off due south to Bihar Shariff (19 miles) whence a smaller road leads to Nalanda station (6 miles). From the station to the excavation site is 2 miles. Throughout the distance of 56 miles from Patna, the roads are serviceable all the year round. The site has been excavated by the Archaeological Department of the Government of India.

Udaipur—is easily one of the most beautiful cities in India. The city is completely encircled by a bastioned wall to which there are five main gates or poles. It stands in a valley amid green hills on the banks of a large lakes with little islands. On these rise from the water's edge marble palaces of pure white that glisten in the sunlight.

Hardwar—It is situated at the place where the Ganges issues forth from the hills on its fertilizing career. *Hari-ki-Pari* is a place of worship, which is a footmark of Vishnu imprinted on a stone into the upper wall of the ghat.

Sarnath—is four miles outside Banaras. In the 'Deer Park' of Sarnath, Gautama Buddha preached his First Sermon on Nir.vana. The ruins of monastaries built more than 1,500 years ago draw Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world. Here stands the famous Asoka Pillar of polished sandstone whose lion capital was adopted by the new republic of India as the state emblem. The museum of Sarnath contains may superb specimens of ancient art.

ARCHITECTURAL & HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

HINDU & BUDDHIST

Ajanta Fresco—Famous frescoes in the Buddhist caves of Ajanta a village in Hyderabad State. It is reached by motor from Jalgaon station on Western Ry.—37 miles from the station. The caves of Ajanta consist of 24 monasteries and 5 temples, some of which are 2000 years old. They are excavated on a wall of almost perpendicular rock, 259 ft. high, sweeping round in a hollow circle and extending a third of a mile from east to west. These caves are situated in the horse-shoe valley. Frescoes are now ranked among the masterpieces of the world's art. The frescoes at Ajanta may be divided into narrative scenes, portraiture and decoration and illustration in the life of Buddha.

Ambar Palace—In the deserted capital of Jaipur, this Palace is considered to include the finest specimens of Rajput architecture.

Barhut—Central India. The sculptures on the stone railing surrounding the Barhut stupa (second century B.C.) represent, with most careful exactitude, episode in the life of the Buddha and the former lives.

Buddhist caves at Karli—One of the most famous of rock-out temples. It is the largest and the most harmonious. It dates from the first century B.C. It is 124 ft. long and 45 ft. wide internally.

Buddha-Gaya—The temple (200 ft. high) is built on the site of a shrine erected by the Emperor Asoka. It commemorates the moment when Gautama meditating under the trees of Bodhi attained enlightenment and quality of Buddha after seven years of mental conflict and penance.

Black Pagoda—Close to the sea-coast, north of Puri, stands the 700 years old Konark temple. Legend runs that the sun-god was once seen here rising out of the sea in his golden chariot. Where his shadow fell, devotees endeavoured to build a temple in the shape of the God's chariot, complete with twenty-four wheels and seven horses. Though now partly in ruins, their symphony in stone still ranks as one fot he India's greatest architectural splendours. 24 miles out of Puri, the road leading to Bhubaneswar, branches off at Pipli towards Konark, which lies 29 miles away. This road is motorable only between December and June. There is an inspection bunglow near the temples, but no refreshments are available.

Belur Temple—situated in the Mysore State, the temple is one of those exquisite specimens of Hoysala architecture, built 900 years ago by the munificence of the Hoysala King, Vishnuvardhana. Ferguson says—There are many buildings in India which are unsurpassed for delicacy of detail by any in the world, but the temple of Belur surpasses even these for freedom of handling and richness of fancy.

Dilwara Temples—Near Mount Abu, the principal hill station of Rajasthan are the wonderful Dilwara Temples. Five in number, they date from the 11th, 12th and 13th century and are built entirely of marble. The carvings which decorate the interior walls and pillars of the temples are fantastically lavish, yet the general impression is one of perfect harmony. The Temples are the Vimala Shah, built in 1032 and the temple of the two brothers Vastupala and Tejpala built between 1197 and 1247.

Elephanta Caves—The Elephanta Island is about 6½ miles north-east of Apollo Bunder in Bombay harbour. There are seven caves in all, but the main cave marked No. 2 which contains the Siva shrine is the most important and contains the sculptured panels. The great three-faced idol representing Trimurti is the most striking among the sculptures in the caves.

Ellora Caves—These Caves can be conveniently reached from Aurangabad on Western Railway and it is 71 miles from Manmad. The caves lie at a distance of 14 miles from Aurangabad. Ellora cave temples, 34 in number are perhaps the largest and most varied in India. There are three classes of caves, Hindu, Buddhist and Jain. Excavated in the scarp of a large rocky plateau, they are remarkable memorials of these great faiths. The most marvellous of all is the stupendous rock-out temples of Kailasa, elaborately carved inside and outside. Hewn entirely out of solid rock, with its massive pillars and colonades, intricate gallaries, painted ceilings and huge sculptures, Kailasa is one of the world's wonders.

Gwalior Fort—is one of the most impressive strongholds of mediæval India. The ascent to the fortress is like that of some fabled palace of the Arabian Nights. Of the many palaces within the walls, the most splendid is that of the Man Singh.

Golden Temple—At Amritsar, the famous Sikh Temple. The temple stands on a raised plinth 65 ft. square in the centre of the tank and is surrounded by verandas.

Gomateswara—Near the town of Sravana Belgola in the State of Mysore, is the giant figure of Gomateswara, the Jain sage. The figure is 57 ft. statute and is carved out of a single stone at the top of a hill. The image is probably 2,000 years old.

Sanchi Tope—Famous Buddhist stupa in the Bhopal State, 25 miles from Bhopal. Stupa is a hemispherical monument of bricks or stones. Sanchi Stupa is one of the oldest (third—first century B.C.) and best preserved Stupas of India. Stupa stands in the top of a small hill and enclosed by the finest and oldest stone railing in India. The stupa is 120 ft. in diameter and 56 ft. high. The most striking features of the Stupa are the gates which face four cardinal points and measure 28 ft. 5 in. to the top of the third architecture and are profusely carved with scenes from Jataka stories. Near the Stapa is the new memorial erected to preserve the remains of the famous disciples of Buddha, Sariputta and Mangalana.

Tower of Victory, Chitore—A famous Hindu monument raised by Rana Kumbha in 1450 to commemorate his victory over the combined armies of Malwa and Guzerat. It consists of nine stories and is 122 ft. high.

Sirguya Frescoes—Are the earliest dateable Indian paintings. These are a group of Buddhist frescoes (100 B.C.) on the walls of a cave in Sirguya in Madhya Pradesh.

Temple of Bhubaneswar—Near Puri, most famous of these are *Rajrani* and *Lingaraj* Temples. Rajrani Temple, erected in the 11th century is a gigantic tower covered with statues and surmounted by receding layers of stones, the whole inward-curving tower ending in a great circular crown and a spire. Lingaraj Temple is the most perfect example of north Indian architecture.

Kajuraho Temples—At Kajuraho in Bundelkhand are grouped about thirty temples dedicated to Siva, Vishnu or Jina. They date from about 950 to 1050. These temples are unrivalled for profusion of ornate detail. In the Kandarya Mahadeva temple, the largest of the group, the details of bewildering complexity are massed together to form a perfectly balanced unity.

Saranath—At Banaras, there is the great Buddhist Stupa, a stupendous stone structure 104 ft. in height and 93 ft. in diameter. It commemorates the fact that here Gautama Buddha preached his doctrine to his first five discipls.

Mahabalipuram—or Seven Pagoda is situated on the south coast of Madras. Its temples are bas-reliefs and are cut from living rocks. The most famous is the 'Descent of the Ganges'. This giant image dating from the seventh century is cut in a granite rock 90 ft. long and 43 ft. high. Another famous sculpture is 'Vishnu reclining on the snake Ananta'. "Arjun's Penance," another bas-relief is the largest bas-relief in the world.

Temple of Sri Rangam—Two miles north of Tiruchirapalli, on an island formed by the bifurcation of the river Cauvery is Srirangam, famous for the temple of Vishnu which contains a hall of thousand columns and sacred shrine of Ranganathaswami.

Ramaswaram Temple—The temple is Ramaswaram is probably the most perfect specimen of art in the Dravidian style. The holy town of Ramaswaram is built on an island in Palk Straits. The great temple is in the form of quadrangular enclosure 650 ft. broad by 1,000 ft. long. Its glory lies in its vast pillared corridors which extend to a length of nearly 4,000 feet.

MUSLIM

Fatehpur Sikri—23 miles from Agra stands the city of palaces built of red sand-stone by Akbar in 1569-1584. Most important piece of art is Buland Darwaja, 126 ft. high built in commemoration of the conquest of Khandesh. Though the city was abandoned for lack of adequate water supply, what remains of its deserted glory is enough to testify to the perfection which Indo-Muslim architecture had attained in the regin of Akbar. Fatehpur Sikri stands anthentic witness of Akbar's splendid effort to achieve a synthesis between Hindu and Muslim cultures.

Gol Gumbaz—At Bijapur, is the 2nd largest dome in the world. This has a floor area of 18,110 sq. ft. This is the largest space covered by any single dome, second largest being that of Pantheon at Rome which has a floor area of 15,833 sq. feet. If the pendentives are also taken into account, the Gol Gumbaz is the greatest domed roof in the world too. It was built in 1656 by Sultan Mohamed Adil Shah to be his last resting place. The 11 ft. wide world-famous whispering gallery hangs out in the interior of the building 109 ft. ins. above the floor. The surface measurement of the dome including four octagonal towers is 205 sq. ft. and the height of the building from the base to the apex of the dome is 198 ft. 6 in. The exterior diameter measures 144 ft. whilst interior diameter is 134 ft. 5 in.

Kutab Minar (238 ft. high) at Delhi—Is one of the masterpieces of Indian technology and art. It is the largest minaret in the world.

It was built by Kutb-ud-din-Aibak in 1191 and further developed by Iltutmish in 1229. It is the first outstanding structure in the Islamic style. It is made of red stone and marble. It has five storeys.

The Fort, Agra—originally built by Akbar, the Fort saw many additions in the reign of the great builder, Shah Jahan. Its walls, 70 ft. high with octagonal towers and crenellated ramparts enclose many relics of old splendour, great courtyards, gateways, audience halls, mosques and royal apartments.

Red Fort, Delhi—The walls of Red Fort enclose the former great imperial palace of Shah Jahan. The wonders of Red Fort recall the pomp and paseantry, the wealth and magnificence of Mughal times.

Jumma Masjid—Known as India's finest and biggest mosque, Jumma Masjid was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan at Delhi more than three hundred years ago. The masjid, raised on a lofty basement is 201 feet in length by 120 feet and is flanked by two minarets 130 ft. high.

Mausoleum of Sher Shah—At Sasaram, is a gigantic solid and masculine example of Moslem architecture standing in the middle of a large tank. 350 miles from Calcutta by Grand Trunk Road, Sasaram stands in the left bank of the Sone river.

Taj Mahal—Most famous tomb built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife—rises with its slender minerets in the midst of magnificent gardens. It is the result of collaboration between Indian, Turkish and European artists. The height of the dome is about 230 feet.

THE CALENDAR

INDIAN CALENDAR—The *Bikram or Samvat* era is most widely used specially in northern India, Rajasthan, Gujarat and is believed to have been established by Vikramaditya, the king of Ujjain to commemorate his victory over Saka kings. But there is dispute over the identity of Vikramaditya as there are so many kings bearing this name. It commenced on February 23,57 B.C. Samvat is a lunisolar year.

The *Saka* or *Sakabda* era is used in some parts of South India. There is a historical dispute as to the origin of this era. It is said to date from the Saka king, Salibahana or it begins with the coronation of the Kushan king Kaniska, and dates from 3rd March, 78 A.D.

Bengali Year was originally a reckoning for agricultural and revenue purposes instituted at the time of Emperor Akbar. In A.D. 1555-6 corresponding to Hijri 962-3, solar computation was introduced to the Muslim era Hijri which became the *Fasli* or harvest era of northern India and was adopted as the current official era in Bengal.

Other Eras—The *Buddha era* from 543 B.C. and *Chaitanya era* from 1407 A.D.

Kali Yuga—The oldest era of India is *Kali Yuga*. The Kali Yuga began on the 18th Feb. 3102 B.C. Thus the Kali Yuga is 5057 in 1955.

MAHOMEDAN CALENDAR—The Mahomedan era is based on *Hijra* or flight of Mahomed from Mecca to Medina. The first day of the era is not the actual date of flight but 16th July, 622 A.D. *Hijra* is a purely lunar year consisting of 12 months containing in alternate sequence 30 or 29 days, with the intercalation of one day at the end of the 12th month at stated intervals in each cycle of 30 years, the object of the intercalation being to reconcile the date of the first of month with the date of the actual new moon. The mean length of *Hijra* Year is 354 days 8 hours and 48 minutes and the period of mean lunation is 29 days 12 hours 44 minutes.

MODERN CALENDAR—The modern calendar is based on the one devised by Julius Cæsar. He fixed the average length of the year at 365½ days as measured by the sun. Each year has 365 days with every fourth year as 'leap year' of 366 days. This so-called Julian calendar was modified by Pope Gregory XIII to correct an error of a few minutes in each year.

JEWISH CALENDAR—is luni-solar that is to say, the year is solar and month are lunar. In a cycle of 19 years the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 9th, 19th, 12th, 13th, 15th, 16th and 18th year have 12 months and the remaining years 13 months of 29 or 30 days each. The length of the ordinary year may be 353, 354 or 355 days and that of the leap year 383, 384 or over 385 days ; thus the mean length of the year over a 19-year cycle is just over 365 days. The years are reckoned from the creation of the world, the date of which is taken to be 3760 B.C. Thus the year A.D. 1938 is A.M. (*Anna Mundi*) 5698-99. The day begins at sunset for the purpose of observing the Sabbath and the various feasts and fasts. The time is 2 hours 21 minutes in advance of Greenwich time, being that of meridian of Jerusalam.

ZOROASTRIAN CALENDAR—is employed by Zoroastrians in India and Iran which began in June 16, A.D. 632.

BUDDHIST CALENDAR—It is reckoned from the death of Buddha in 543 B.C. (the actual date being 487 B.C). The Buddhist year begins from Vaisakhi Purnima. Buddha was born on the Baisakhi full moon day, he took his seat under Bodhi tree at Gaya on full moon day to attain wisdom. It was on the full moon day again that he left the world.

HINDU CALENDAR—Hindus have employed luni-solar cycles made by the combination of solar years and lunar years so treated as to keep the beginning of the lunar year near that of the solar year. In some parts of India solar years are used while in other parts lunar is followed :

The solar year is divided into 12 months in accordance with the successive *Sankrantis* or entrances of the Sun into the sidereal signs of zodiac. The names of the signs are as follows :—

Mesha, the ram (Aries).
Vrishabha, the bull (Taurus).
Mithuna, the pair (Gemini).
Karkata, the crab (Cancer).
Sinha, the lion (Leo).
Kanya, the maiden (Virgo).
Tula, the scale (Libra).
Vrischika, the scorpion (Scorpio).
Dhanus, the bow (Sagittarius).
Makara, the sea monster (Capricorns).
Kumbha, the water pot (Acquarius)).
Mina, the fishes (Pisces)..

But these are also known in some parts by another set of names preserving connection with lunar months—*Chitra*, *Vaisakha*, *Jaistha*, *Ashara*, *Sravana*, *Bhadra*, *Asvina*, *Kartika*, *Margasirsa* or *Agrahayan*, *Pausa*, *Magha* and *Phalguna*.

The astronomical solar month runs from the moment of one *Sankranti* of the sun to the moment of the next *Sankranti* and as the signs of the Hindu zodiac are all of equal length, 30 degrees, while the speed of the sun varies according to the time of the year, the length of the month is variable.

The days of solar month begin with sun-rise. The days are named as follows: *Ravivara*, the day of sun (*Sunday*); *Somvara*, the day of the moon (Monday); *Mangalvara*, the day of the Mars (Tuesday); *Budhvara*, the day of Mercury (Wednesday); *Brihaspativara*, the day of Jupiter (Thrusday); *Sukravara*, the day of Venus (Friday); *Sanivara*, the day of Saturn (Saturday).

The lunar year consists of primary 12 lunar months. It is of two principal varieties according as it begins with a certain day in the month of Chaitra or with the corresponding day in Kartika. The present names of the lunar months were derived from 12 out of the 27 Nakshatras, supposed to be companions of the Moon during 12 full-moon nights.

NAMES OF MONTHS—January was named from *Janus*, god who presided over the beginning of everything, February from *Februa*, a festival of purification held in that month by the Romans. *Maritus* is the Mars, who was originally a god of agriculture, his month being the one when crops are ordinarily planted. The origin of April is not known. May is named from *Maia*, the mother of Roman god Mercury. June is derived from Juno, the goddess of women and of marriage. July was formerly called quintilius from *quintus*, the fifth, but when Julius Cæsar reformed the calendar, he changed the month's name to Julius in his own honour: Julius became July in English. August was originally called sextilis, afterwards was named August from the Emperor Augustus. Those from September to December are so called from the numbers *Septem*, 'seven' *Octo*., 'eight' *November*, 'nine' and *December*, 'ten'.

YEAR—Unit of time is marked by the revolution of the earth in its orbit round the sun. The solar year is 365 days 5 hours, 48 minutes 49·7 seconds. The *Calendar* year consists of 365 days, with one day added every fourth year except years divisible by hundred and not by four hundred.

TIME—Measurement of time is based on the time taken by earth to rotate on its axis (*day*); by moon to revolve round the earth (*month*); and by the earth to revolve round the sun (*year*); Day starts at midnight and is divided into 24 hours of 60 minutes, each of 60 seconds. The hours are counted from midnight up to 12 at noon and these hours are designated A.M. and again from noon up to 12 at midnight, which hours are designated P.M. The 24-hour reckoning however ignores A.M. and P.M. and the hours are numbered 0 to 23 from midnight to midnight.

Different ways of telling time—The usual division of the day into "A.M." (ante meridian) and "P.M." (post meridian) groups of 12 hours each has given way for same purposes to the "24-hour" day n many countries. On the "24-hour" clock the hour begins with zero at midnight and run to 23 ; thus 1-30 P.M. is called 13-30 o'clock, and so on. This system is in general use on railway systems. Since it is simpler than the 12-hour system and makes calculation easier, astronomers and navigators use it for tables and records.

On ship board varieties of time are used. "Greenwich time" or time corresponding to that at Greenwich, England, is kept by an accurate chronometer for use in determining the ship's position. The ship's routine is however governed by "watches" and "bells." The day is divided into six "watches", commencing at noon and each watch is divided into eight parts marked by "bells." One half an hour after a watch begins, "one bell" is struck. Half an hour later, or one hour after the commencement of watch, "two bells" strike, and so on upto "eight bells" when the watch changes and the bells strike all over again from one to eight.

Astronomers usually use *sidereal time*, which is fixed by observing the transits of the stars. A *sidereal day* is the period of one rotation of the earth upon its axis. It starts at noon and contains 24 hours 56 minutes and 4 seconds of mean solar time. A *sidereal year* contains 366½ sidereal days.

Local Time—When the system of local time is used, it is 12 o'clock (noon) at any region where sun is at its highest point in the sky, and shadows are cast in a line extending north and south.

Standard Time—is the system of time established by common usage or legislative action in any part of the world. Standard time is the local time of standard meridian, but used over an entire time zone. The system of Standard Time by Zones has been gradually accepted which differs from that of Greenwich by an integral number of hours, either fast or slow.

Time Zones—The 15 degree measurement divides Europe into three time-zones—*Greenwich*, *Mid-European* (one hour faster). *East European* (2 hours faster). United States and Canada are divided into five time-zones—*Atlantic*, *Eastern*, *Central*, *Mountain* and *Pacific*.

Examples of Zone System :—

Fast on Greenwich Time

12 hrs. F ..	Fiji, NewZealand.
9½ hrs. F ..	South Australia.
9 hrs. F ..	Manchuria, Japan, Korea.
8 hrs. F ..	East China, Philippine Islands, West Australia, Indo-China.
7½ hrs. F ..	Malaya, Singapur, Java.
6½ hrs. F ..	Burma, Andaman
6 hrs. F ..	East Pakistan.
5½ hrs. F ..	India, Ceylon.
4½ hrs. F ..	West Pakistan.
3½ hrs. F ..	Iran.
2 hrs. F ..	(*East European*) Turkey, Greece, Finland, Egypt, Israel, Syria, South Africa.
1 hr. F ..	(*Mid. European*) Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, Germany, France, Austria, Yugoslavia, Switzerland Hungary, Czechoslovakia.

Greenwich .. Great Britain, Ireland, Portugal, Algeria, French Moracco, etc.

Slow on Greenwich Time

1 hr. S .. Iceland.
3 hrs. S .. Greenland, Uruguay, Argentina.
4 hrs. S .. (*Atlantic*) Canada, Central Brazil, Bolivia, Chile.
5 hrs. S .. (*Eastern*) E. States of U. S. A., Cuba, Panama, Colombia, Equador.
7 hrs. S .. (*Mountain*) Canada from 102°W to 120°W, Mountain States of U. S. A., Part of Mexico.
8 hrs. S .. (*Pacific*) Canada West of 120°W, Western States of U. S. A.
10 hrs. S .. Central Alaska, Hawaii.
11 hrs. S .. Aleutian Is., West Coast Alaska, Samoa, Christmas Islands.

Daylight Saving Time—Device to make more sunlight hours available for business, industry, leisure by setting all clocks forward one hour during summer, when sun rises early, thus saving evening use of artificial light. This device was first used as national economy during World War I.

Greenwich Mean Time—The International Meridian Conference held in 1884 established the meridian passing through Greenwich, England as the prime meridian, from which the world's time was to be reckoned. The world is considered as being divided into 24 zones each of 15° of arc, or one hour in time apart. The meridian of Greenwich (0°) extends through the centre of the initial zone and the zones to the eastwards are numbered from 1 to 12 with the prefix 'minus' indicating the number of hours to be subtracted to obtain Greenwich time. The zones to the westward are similarly numbered, but prefixed 'plus' showing the number of hours that must be added to get Greenwich time.

International Date Line—is an imaginary line extending north and south through Pacific Ocean, and is the point at which the traveller must add or subtract a day from the calendar. On a journey westward across the Pacific, he must add a day (for example, by changing Monday, the 17th to Tuesday, the 18th) ; when travelling eastward, he is required to set the date back one day, otherwise he will not be in accord with the local date when he returns to his starting place after making trip round the world.

Indian Standard Time—The Indian Standard Time which is 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time was first adopted on 1st January 1906. It was based on the mean time of 82½°E longitude which passes through Banaras and Cocanada. Though it was used by Railways and Post and Telegraph Offices, Calcutta had its own time 24 minutes ahead of it. During World War II, a uniform time 6½ hours ahead of Greenwich time was adopted in India. India now observes Indian Standard Time, which is 5½ hours ahead of Greenwich.

Longest and Shortest days—Longest day is the day on which the sun attains its greatest distance from the equator, north or south, accordingly as the place is in the northern and southern hemisphere. This generally falls on June 21. Similar considerations apply to the shortest day of the year which falls on December 22.

Dog Days—are the most unwholesome period of the year in the northern hemisphere. The period of dog days are July 3 to August 15.

HOLIDAYS

Hindu Festival—*Durga Puja*—A national festival in Bengal. The celebration signifies the triumph of good over evil and the subjection of animal passions by human beings. It is also symbolical of womanhood's strength and power to combat all forms of reaction. According to *Puranas*, a demon, Mahisasura was threatening gods and men. Durga, the embodiment of Divine Power took human form and bearing weapons in her ten hands slew the demon. Hence the form in which the goddess is worshipped is that of a warlike figure having ten arms and riding astride a lion. The goddess descends from her heavenly home, the Kailash to visit her children on earth three days every year, accompanied by her two sons, Kartick, a great warrior, and Ganesh, the God of Prosperity and two daughters, Lakshmi, the Goddess of Wealth and Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning. On the fourth day, the immersion ceremony takes place and the image of the goddess is consigned to the waters. The tradition says that on the last day, Ramchandra of Ramayana offered special prayers to the Goddess and thus gained victory over Ravana, the Demon King of Lanka (Ceylon).

Sivaratri—Festival in honour of the Hindu God Siva, one of the Hindu Trinity. It takes place in the month of February-March.

Holi—Hindu festival in March. It marks the coming of the spring. The festival in general is held in honour of Krishna. The day is celebrated in greatest merriment and fun and coloured waters are thrown over relatives and other people. It is a great festival of northern India.

Dewali—A festival of lights held in October-November. The festival is celebrated by means of illuminations and fireworks. In some States Hindu merchants begin their fresh account books. The legend says that its celebration began with the coronation of King Rama.

Ganesh Chaturthi—A great Hindu festival of the Western India generally takes place in September in honour of Hindu God Ganesh who is represented with four hands and an elephant's head. This festival is also known as *Ganapaty Day*.

Dusserah—It is a great festival of northern India: it usually takes place in the month of September or October. The festival takes place in honour of the victory of Goddess (*Devi*) over the buffalo-headed demon Mahisasur. The festival takes place for nine days known as *Navaratri*. It also commemorates the victory of Rama over the demon king Ravana. In all important towns of northern India huge effigies of Ravana is made and burnt on the last day of the festival in great pomp and pageant.

Saraswati Puja—Usually takes place in the month of Magh (January-February) on the fifth day (*Panchami*) of the new moon. This day, according to Hindus, heralds the advent of spring. Saraswati is the Goddess of Learning.

Christian Festival—*All Fool's day*—The first day of April, when, from centuries throughout the Christendom it has been customary to place irresponsible tricks on one's neighbours.

Arbor day—Annual tree planting day is generally observed throughout U.S.A., in parts of Canada and Great Britain.

Bank Holiday—In Great Britain a secular day when by law banks are closed, and parties are exempt from presentment or payment of negotiable paper.

Candlemas day—In its ecclesiastical meaning Candlemas is the feast of purification of the Virgin Mary and is observed on February 2. This festival is strictly kept by Roman Catholic Church.

Christmas—Meaning Christ's Mass, is applied to the festival commemorating the birth of Christ celebrated on December 25. The exact date of Christ's birth is unknown. January 6 and December 28 however, were commonly chosen in the 4th century. The general adoption of December 25, first in the west and a little later in the east, dates from the 5th century.

Easter—The season which commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is universally regarded as the chief of Christian festivals. Christians believe that Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and rose again from the dead after three days on Easter Monday.

Good Friday—The Friday before Easter, celebrated in commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Holloween—The name of the popular, boisterous antumn celebration means 'holy eve', the occasion being the eve of 'All Hallows' or 'All-Saints' Day', November 1. It has the Pagan origin.

Lent—A word from the Anglo-Saxon *eencten* meaning "springtime". It is employed to denote the forty days preceding Easter, the period observed in the Catholic Church as a fast.

St. Valentine's day—A festival which falls on February 14. The orgin of the observance of this day is uncertain. Among the many interesting folk customs of medieval France and England, was a gathering of young people on St. Valentine's eve. 'Valentine' means sweet-heart.

All Soul's Day—Day of prayer for souls of the dead.

Moslem Festival—*Id-uz-Zuha or Bakr-id*—The festival commemorates the ordeal of Ismail and the miraculous way in which at the last moment Providence came to his rescue.

Hazrat-Ibrahim, called Khalilulla, or the friend of God, was put to a terrible test when he was asked to sacrifice what was dearest to him, and he decided to offer the life of his beloved son Ismail. As he was on the point of applying the knife to Ismail's throat, it was revealed to him that this was meant only to test his faith and that he would, on opening his eyes, find a ram which he should sacrifice.

It has also a symbolical aspect : the sacrificial animal standing for the evil in human nature, which must be continually surrendered at the altar of God. This is celebrated on the 10th day of Zilhija.

Mohurrum—is the observance of the first ten days of Mohurrum, the first month of the Muslim year. It is dedicated to the mourning and remembrance of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain, the maternal grandson of the Prophet Mohammad and the son of Hazrat Ali and Fatima. Hazrat Imam Hussain died on the 10th day of Mohurrum 61 A.H. while fighting against the forces of Yazid, when the whole family of Hazrat Ali was practically slaughtered in this battle.

Akhiri-Chahar Sumbha—held on the Wednesday of Safar when Mahomed recovered a little in his last illness and bathed for the last time.

Sabi-barat—(night of allotment)—held on the 16th Saaban when it is supposed that human deeds are measured and their needs allotted.

Ramzan and Id-ul-fitr—Ramzan is the ninth month of the Moslem lunar year and is holy because the Quoran was revealed in that month. The fact is ordained in a magnificent passage of the Quoran. The fast springs from Quoranic instructions for the better communion with God whom all men must honour and worship and that those instructions are obeyed by the faithful with the greatest devotion and loyalty. The period begins with the first sight of the new moon of the month or if the day be overclouded and the moon invisible, on the completion of the thirty days from the previous moon. Each day's fasting must begin so soon as daybreak permits a white thread to be discerned from a black thread and it continues till sunset.

Buddhist Festival—*Full Moon of Vaisakha*—is the thrice sacred day in the Buddhist calendar. On this day, under the spreading emerald canopy of the *Sal* tree in the beautiful gardens of Lumbini was born of queen Maya, Prince Siddharta, the Buddha to be. It was on another Vaisak Purnima day, when Tathagata attained "Bodhi" or enlightenment under a Bodhi Tree at Gaya. On a third Vaisak Purnima eighty years after the first that Buddha attained Mahaparinirvan in Kosi.

Ashada Purnima—is in commemoration of the first sermon of the Buddha attained Mahaparinirvan in Kosi.

Vas Pavarana—(End of rainy season lent) is held in October.

ASTRONOMICAL DATA

SOLAR SYSTEM—The solar system is made up of our sun, the planets and other heavenly bodies which revolve round the sun. The bodies in our solar system include the planets, their satellites or moons, the asteroids and countless swarms of meteors. These are all held in their places by the pull of the sun. They travel round the sun receiving and reflecting light and heat. There are also diffuse bodies called comets, which revolve in highly elliptical orbits and develop tails when they are near the sun. The nine large planets are the most massive bodies in the solar system, next to the sun. These planets have thirty one satellites including our moon. The nine planets in order of their distances from the sun are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The planets differ greatly from one another in size. The smallest planet is Mercury, which is about one sixteenth the size of earth. Venus is almost as large as the earth but Mars is only one seventh as large. Saturn is 730 times as large as our planet. Uranus is sixty-four times as large and Neptune is sixty times as large as the earth. Jupiter is more than 1,300 times as large as the earth. Every planet has two motions. It revolves round the sun and at the same time it spins on its own axis.

Table of Planets

	Mean Distance (mills. of m. from sun)	*Period of sidereal revolution in years*	*Mean diam in miles*	*Axial rotation* (Sidereal)
Mercury ..	36·0	0·24	3,000	88 days
Venus ..	67·0	0·62	7,600	225 days
Earth ..	92·9	1·00	7,927	23 h. 56 m.
Mars ..	141·6	1·88	4,200	24 h. 37 m. 23 s.
Jupiter ..	483·3	11·86	88,700	9 h. 55 m.
Saturn ..	886·0	29·46	75,100	10 h. 14 m.
Uranus ..	1782·8	84·02	30,900	C11 h.
Neptune ..	2793·5	164·8	33,000	C16 h.
Pluto ..	C3700	24·8	C3,650	..

SUN—There are countless millions of far distant self-luminous gaseous bodies called stars and each one is in itself a sun. Our sun is at a average distance of 93,000,000 miles from the earth. This distance could be covered in about ten years by a rocket ship travelling a thousand miles an hour. It has a diameter of 865,000 miles, a surface temperature of about 12,000°F. It has a surface area approximately 12,000 times that of the earth and in volume or bulk it is about 1,306,000 times the size of the earth. By the force of its gravitational attraction, the Sun keeps the planets in their regular orbits and pulls them with it through space at the rate of about 12 miles per second.

EARTH—The earth is almost completely round. Its diameter at the equator is 7,926.56 miles. Its diameter through the North and South poles is 7,899.74 miles. The leaves a difference of about 27 miles. The earth's area is about 196,950,000 sq. miles. Though the earth appears to us stationary, it is in fact spinning round on its axis daily, at a speed of about 1,000 miles an hour. Besides spinning on its axis, the earth moves round the Sun. The path of the earth round the Sun. The path of the earth round the Sun called its orbit is not a circle but an oval or ellipse and the plane in which the Earth moves is said to be Plane of the Ecliptic. The time taken to complete one revolution round the sun is one year *i.e.*, 365¼ days approximately. The seasons are due to the changes of the Earth's position in the course of its revolution about the Sun and to the inclination of its axis.

MOON—is the only satellite of the earth, from which her mean distance is 2,39,000 miles, occupies an average period, in her revodution round the earth of 29 days, 12 hours, 44 minutes, 5 seconds; her diameter is 2,160 miles with a surface deeply pitted by great craters. It has no atmosphere, and it shines entirely by reflected light of the Sun.

Moon causes *Tides* by drawing the sea after it as the earth spins. The highest tides called spring tides, occur when attractions of the Sun and the Moon act in unison. The Moon being closer to the earth than Sun has the stronger attraction or pulling power, but Sun pulls the water also. It is when they pull together in the same direction that the highest tides occur (on New and Full moon days). The longest or neap tides occur when lines joining the Sun and Moon to the Earth are at right angles to one another.

OTHER PLANETS—*Mercury* is the smallest planet and is the nearest to the sun. Its surface is about one seventh and its volume about one sixteenth that of the earth. Its period of revolution around the Sun is 88 days; *Venus* has no satellite, but is otherwise much like the earth in size mass and in having atmosphere. It is the brightest planet. Its period of revolution around the Sun is 225 days. *Mars* comes closer to the earth than any other major planet at a time suitable for observation—within 35,000,000 miles at its nearest point. In period of revolution around the Sun is approximately 686 days. It is the planet which scientists believe is the most likely to have animal life. *Jupiter* is the largest of the planets revolving around the Sun. Jupiter's surface is 130 times as great as the earths' surface, as its volume is 1,300 times as great. Jupiter has at least twelve satellites or moons. *Saturn*, a fluid and probably gaseous body takes almost 30 years to revolve around the Sun. Saturn is encircled by three transparent rings with thickness of between 20 and 40 miles. Saturn has at least nine satellites. *Uranus* discovered by Sir William Herschel in 1781, takes 84 years to revolve around the Sun. It has five satellites. *Neptune* was discovered in 1846. Its period of revolution around the Sun is almost 165 years. It has two satellites. *Pluto*, the most distant known planet of the solar system was discovered in 1930. It takes 248 years to revolve around the Sun.

ASTEROIDS—are also called minor planets. They are of small bodies which revolve round the sun in orbits lying between those of Mars and Jupiter. Known asteroids now number over 1,500. New ones are constantly being discovered. The largest is Ceres, 485 miles in diameter. Some of these celestial bodies are perhaps nothing more than great masses of rock flying round the sun. The largest asteroids are: *Ceres*, 485 miles in diameter, *Pallas* 280, Juno 150, and *Vesta* 241 (miles).

COMETS—They are occasional visitors to the sun's family, outside the planets and their moons. These are called comets, large masses of small particles and gases. They have long tails, and look like flaming snakes hurtling through the sky. Most comets have three parts : a nucleus, a head, and a tail. The bright central nucleus may be nearly as large as the earth, which is 8,000 miles in diameter. The head or coma surrounding the nucleus, may be from 30,000 to 100,000 miles in diameter. The tail which looks like a bright streak behind the comet, may sometimes be 100,000,000 miles long or further than the distance from earth to the sun. A curious thing about comets is that their tails always trail from the head in a direction away from the Sun, so that when a comet is moving away from the Sun, the tail stretches out in front of the head. A few comets travel in hyperbolic orbits, never returning, but most comets return over a period of years. The most famous is *Halley's comet* which can be seen every seventy-five years.

METEORS—Meteors are pieces of matter which fall to earth out of space. They plunge into earth's atmosphere at great speed and become incandescent from the resultant friction, so that they are seen in the sky as fireballs or "shooting stars". The majority of meteors are burned up long before they strike the earth's surface and those which reach the ground are known as *meteorites*. Hence meteors which reach the earth are called meteorites. The largest meteorite ever found is located near Grootfontein, south-west Africa which weighs between 50 and 70 tons. The second largest meteorite (weight 36⅓ tons) was found at Cape York, Greenland.

CONSTELLATIONS—Group of fixed stars named after a mythological person, animal, etc. It must have been earliest observers, several thousand years B.C. who recorded that the 'fixed' stars are not scattered uniformly over the sky but appear to be grouped into figures, now named constellations. This confines us to stars visible to the naked eye, and also those of Milky Way. The constellations covering the whole celestial sphere are divided into three groups according to the regions in which they are seen—the Northern, the Southern and the Zodiacal.

SATELLITES—The secondary bodies which revolve around the planets, as the planets revolve around the sun, are called satellites. With the exception of Mercury and Venus, all of the planets are accompanied by one or more satellites. Earth has one satellite, moon; Mars has two; Jupiter twelve; Saturn, ten; Uranus, five; and Neptune, two.

STARS—are luminous heavenly bodies, so far distant from the solar system that the light from the nearest star travelling at the speed of 186,000 miles per second, takes four years to reach the earth. Unlike the planets, the stars shine by their own light. Stars are suns. Some of the stars are brighter and some of them are fainter than our own sun. The total number of stars is probably in the neighbourhood of three to four billion ; a person with good eyesight can see about 3,000 stars at any one time on a clear night. The stars 'twinkle' as we gaze at them. This twinkling is caused by refraction through the earth's atmosphere.

POLAR AURORAS—The *Aurora Borealis* (northern lights) and *Aurora Australis* (southern lights) are luminous atmospheric phenomena which occur in the Arctic and Antarctic regions respectively. The auroras are now directly attributed to sun-spots. Sun-spots are magnetic storms of great dimensions on the surface of the Sun and they shoot out electrified particles into space. Those that come towards the Earth are drawn towards the Earth's magnetic poles and consequently these magnetic poles are the radiating centres of those spectacular electro-magnetic displays in the sky known as *Northern Lights* or *Southern Lights*. The electrical particles from the sun-spots strike the upper regions of our atmosphere where the component gases are very much rarefied and cause them to vibrate and glow when an electric charge is passed through it. There are indefinite variety of aurora display. Lights sweep across the sky in waves, in streamers and in folds like draped curtains or as stationary glow. The lights are red or green or pastel shades.

MILKY WAY—*Milky Way* is a hazy, somewhat irregular band of light about 20″ wide which completely encircles the heavens. It is seen on clear, moonless, summer evenings stretching entirely across the northern sky.

ATMOSPHERE—The atmosphere is composed of air which surrounds or envelopes the whole earth. It is sometimes likened to a great sea of gases, at the bottom of which we live. This air which surrounds the globe affects the light that comes to us from heavenly bodies. It refracts (bends or changes the direction) light rays that enter it. Due to this refraction, we see the Sun and the Moon before they rise and after they set. The 'twinkling' of the stars is caused by convection currents in the air that have rapidly changing refractive effect on the light from the stars. Our twilight is produced by the diffusion in the atmosphere of light from the Sun when it is below the horizon. Chemically the atmosphere is composed of nitrogen, oxygen and extremely minor amounts of argon, neon, helium, hydrogen and carbon dioxide.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL INFORMATION

RACES OF MANKIND

RACE "A SOCIAL MYTH"—The United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization has published on 18th July, 1950 a statement setting forth the conclusions of an international panel of scientists formed by UNESCO to define the concept of race and to summarize the most recent findings in this field which the world's biologists geneticists, psychologists, sociologists, and anthropologists agree, are established scientific facts.

The main points of the conclusions are :—

(1) Racial discrimination has no scientific foundation in biological fact. There is no proof that the groups of mankind differ in intelligence, temperament, or other innate mental characteristics.

(2) The range of mental capacities in all races is much the same.

(3) Extensive study yields no evidence that race mixture produces biologically bad results. The social results of race mixtures are to be traced to social factors. There is no biological justification for prohibiting inter-marriage between persons of different ethnic groups.

(4) Race is less a biological fact than a social myth. As a myth it has in recent years taken a heavy toll in human lives and suffering and still keeps millions of persons from normal development, and civilization from the full use of the co-operation of productive minds.

(5) But, scientifically, no large modern national or religious group is a race. Nor are people who speak a single language, or live in a single geographical area, or share in a single cultural community necessarily a race.

(6) Tests have shown essential similarity in mental characters among all human racial groups. Given similar degrees of cultural opportunity to realize their potentialities, the average achievement of the members of each ethnic group is about the same.

(7) All human beings possess educability and adaptability, the traits which more than all others have permitted the development of men's mental capacities.

HOMO SAPIENS—We now give general classification of human race as is prevalent now a days. Classification of human into groups called '*races*' rests upon the basic fact that all peoples belong to the same genus and species, *Homo Sapiens*. It implies that all peoples are much more alike than different.

METHOD OF CLASSIFICATION—Scientists classify man by using number of physical traits, most of them based upon observation rather than upon precise measurement, such as stature, head-form, skin colour, hair colour, form and texture, eye colour, nose shape, mouth form, shape of face with special reference of cheek-bones, arm and leg proportions, etc.

Two things are noteworthy—(1) most of the physical traits are external, (2) physical traits are so variable that a single trait has virtually no diagnostic value. So "race" is defined simply as a sub-group of mankind more or less set apart by a combination of physical traits.

(1) *Hair classification*—Some ethnologists divide mankind into three kinds—*Wooly hair, wavy hair, straight hair.*

(2) *Colour classification*—Some ethnologists divide mankind like this—*Whites, Yellow-Brown* and *Blacks.*

(3) *Group classification*—The human family has been divided

into three or possibly four great aggregates of races to usually called *stocks* :—*Caucasian*, *Mongolian*, *Negroid* and *Australoid*. First three are often referred to as 'White', 'Yellow' and 'Black'. This is not really correct ; peoples of North-Central India are caucasoids, yet their skin colour is brown to dark brown. Variability also may be seen in stature : the tallest people in the world are found in Denmark and Scottish Highlands, in East Africa and in southernmost South America—respectively Caucasoid, Negroid and Mongoloid.

The Caucasian or Indo-European Race (White) comprises the Persians, Jews, Arabians, Hindus, Afghans, and the people of Northern Africa ; also the descendants of Europeans in America, South Africa, Australia, peoples of Europe, the adjacent shores of North Africa, and of Asia Minor, and India. The following races also belong to Caucasian stock—Nordic or northwest European, Alpine or Central European, Mediterranean or south-west European, Baltic or northeast European. Dinaric or southeast European, Armenoid in western Asia Minor. These races are not, of course absolutely limited to those geographical areas.

The Mongolian Race (Yellow) is basically the peoples of Asia, but are also in the western hemisphere as the American Indians and are represented in Malaysia and in Oceania. The Mongoloids are usually divided into the following races ; Senic of China and Japan, Palearctic of Siberia, Turkic and Tungic or Mongolic of Central Asia and Malayan of Malaysia. In the Western Hemisphere, they are found as Eskimos and the Indians of the Americans. In Polynesia *i.e.*, in Samoa, Tonga, Hawaii, the Mongoloid stock is a basic element with Caucasoid and some Negroid admixture.

The Negro Race (Black) is characterised by a broad and flat nose, thick lips, straight eyes, protruding jaw, kinkly hair, and dark skin varying in degrees of brownness and is composed of the natives of Africa and Oceania. They are chiefly found in West Africa, Sudan in Central Africa etc., and in Borneo, Solomons, Hebrides and Fiji.

Australoids are found in Australia as Australian aboriginals and in Japan as the Ainu. They may possibly be an element in Melanesia and in Ceylon and S. India *i.e.*, Toda, the Vedda and other tribes.

Myth of pure Races—From the above observations, it is conclusively proved that (1) there are no pure races (2) there are no superior or inferior races. We know from hisory that all peoples upon contact, have crossed their genetically based physical traits. We know from human anatomy that in fundamental structure all peoples are identical. As for biological Man is concerned, what he is, is related to his cultural environment, rather than to any innate ability or aptitude.

STAGES OF CIVILISATION OF MAN

The terms employed refer to periods, not of time but of culture and are of local application only—it is not universal in all parts of the world.

Stone Age—Age of human development in which primitive man was using stone implements and weapons. The Stone Age preceded the ages of bronze and iron. It is usually divided into four periods —(1) *Aolithic* or dawn of the stone age which lasted 6,000,000 years B.C.; (2) *Paleolithic*, or old stone age lasting perhaps 400,000 to 100,000 B.C. in which weapons and sharp stone tools were made from hard stone (flint) by chipping; (3) *Mesolithic*, at traditional period intermediate between the old and new stone ages, lasting perhaps until 10,000 B.C. when arrow and spear-heads were made and (4) the *Neolithic* or New stone age in which tools were perfected by grinding and polishing the stone. The new stone age lasted in Europe for some 5,000 years. In different parts of the world, the stone age existed at different times. Fire was probably discovered some 60,000 years before Christ.

Bronze Age—The period when early man used bronze for his tools and weapons, this superseding the use of stone. Its date differs in various areas. In the East it began probably about 5,000 B.C. and in the West perhaps 2,000 B.C. and continued until about 1,000 B.C.

Iron Age—The cultural phase of human civilisation marked by the use of iron specially for edged tools and weapons. In Europe and West Asia it usually followed the copper-using or bronze-using phase or age; in Africa it directly succeeded the stone-age. In Europe, iron working became general in the Mediterranean region about 1,000 B.C., subsequently two pre-Christian periods occurred, each of about 500 years.

PRE-HISTORIC RACES

Pithecanthropos erectus (erect ape-man or Java man)—This is generally believed to be the earliest manlike animal. Held to be a creature of pleistocene time about mid-way between the orang-utan and man, (1891-1892).

Sinanthropos pekinensis (Peking man)—Of higher development than Java man, but of approximately same period. Fosilized remains of 10 individuals were found in a cave about 40 miles from Pekin between 1926 and 1930. The brain capacity is estimated to be about one-fourth larger than that of Java man.

Australopithecus Africanus (erect man-ape)—A skull was found in Cape Colony in 1925.

Homo Heidelbergensis (Heidelberg man)—Primitive man of pleistocene period discovered in Heidelberg, Germany (1907). The jaw which are remarkably well-preserved, are unmistakably of human type.

Plitdown skull (Eoanthropos or primitive man)—Primitive man of early palaeolitic times found in Piltdown, Sussex (1912).

Neanderthal Man—Oldest known dolichocephalic (long-headed) race in Europe, living about 50,000 years before Christian era. Human remains were first discovered in 1857 near Dusseldorf, Germany, in Neanderthal, after which this type of human beings has been named.

Homo primigenius—Of last palæolithic times from 35,000 to 15,000 B.C. (1895-1906).

Note—Figures in parenthesis denote years in which discoveries were made.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

AREA OF THE CONTINENTS

	Sq. miles		*Sq. miles*
Europe	2,085,000	North, Central & South America & Islands	15,705,000
Africa	11,699,000	Oceania (including Australasia)	3,201,000
Asia	10,348,000		
U.S.S.R.	8,337,000		

WORLD DIMENSIONS

	Miles		*Sq. miles*
Diameter of either Pole	7,900·00	Distance from the Sun	93,000,000
Diameter at equator	7,926·68	Superficial area	196,836,000
Circ. of equator	24,901·08	Water area	141,050,000
		Land area	59,786,000

PRINCIPAL RIVERS

	Miles long		*Miles long*
Missouri-Mississippi (U.S.A.)	4,502	Mekong (Asia)	2,800
Amazon (S.A.)	4,194	Obe (Asia)	2,700
Nile (Africa)	3,600	Niger (Africa)	2,600
Yangtse (Asia)	3,400	Hoang-Ho (Asia)	2,600
Yenesei (Asia)	3,300	Amur (Asia)	2,500
Congo (Africa)	3,000	Mackenzie (Canada)	2,514
Lena (Asia)	2,800	Volga (Europe)	2,450
		Yokon	2,000

OCEANS AND SEAS

	Area (sq. m.)	*Greatest known depth (ft.)*	*Place of greatest known depth*
Pacific Ocean	63,986,000	35,410	off Mindanao
Atlantic Ocean	31,530,000	30,143	Puerto Rico Trench
Indian Ocean	28,350,000	22,968	Sunda Trench
Artic Ocean	5,541,600	17,850	77° 45′N ; 175°W
Mediterranean	1,145,000	14,435	Matapan
Berring	878,000	13,422	Buldir Trough
Okhotsk	582,000	11,154	Kurile Trough

HIGHEST MOUNTAIN PEAKS

	Range	*height in. ft.*		*Range*	*height in. ft.*
Everest	Himalayas	29,002	Illampu	Andes	21,500
Godwin-Austen (K2)	Do.	28,250	Chimborozo	Do.	20,498
Kanchanjanga	Do.	28,146	McKinley	Alaska	20,300
Nanga Parvat	Do.	26,629	Mount Logan	Rockies	19,850
Nanda Devi	Do.	25,645	Cotopaxi	Andes	19,612
Kamet	Do.	25,477	Kilimanjaro	Tanganaika	19,921
Aconcagua	Andes	22,976	Demevand	Iran	18,600
			Elburz	Caucasus	18,526

HIGHEST & LOWEST ELEVATIONS OF THE WORLD

	Highest (ft.)	*Lowest*
World & Asia—Mt. Everest ..	29,001	Dead Sea (Asia)—1,290 ft. below sea level
Africa—Mt. Kilimanjaro ..	19,565	Qattara Depression (Egypt) 440 ft. below sea level
N. America—Mt. Mckinley ..	20,300	Death Valley, California 275 ft. below Sea level
S. America—Mt. Aconcagua ..	22,835	Sea level
Antarctica—Mt. Thorvald Nelson ..	15,400	Sea level
Europe (Ex. U.S.S.R.)—Mt. Blanc ..	15,781	Sea level
Australia—Mt. Kosciusco ..	7,328	Lake Eyre, 40 ft. below sea level
Oceania—Mauna Kea ..	13,784	Sea level
U.S.S.R.—Mt. Pobedy ..	24,409	Caspian Sea, 86 ft. below sea level

LARGE LAKES

	Area Sq. Miles		*Area Sq. Miles*
Caspian (U.S.S.R.-Iran) ..	170,000	Nayasa (Africa) ..	20,000
Superior (U.S.-Canada)	31,820	Tanganyika (Cen. Africa) ..	12,700
Victoria Nyanza (East Africa) ..	26,640	Baikal (S. Siberia) ..	12,150
Aral (Asiatic Russia)	24,600	Great Bear Lake (Canada) ..	12,000
Huron (U.S.-Canada)	23,010	Great Slave Lake (Canada) ..	11,170
Michigan (U.S.A.) ..	22,400	Erie (U.S.-Canada) ..	9,940
Chad (Africa) ..	20,000	Winnipeg (Canada) ..	9,398

VOLCANOES

Active	*feet*
Llullaillaco (Chile)	20,244
Mt. Wrangel (U.S.A.)	14,000
Mauna Loa (Hawaii)	13,675
Erebus (Antarctic)	13,000
Nyiragongo (Belgian Congo)	11,560
Iliamna (Aleutian Ils)	11,000
Etna (Cicity)	10,800
Chillan (Chile)	10,500
Nyamuragira (Belgian Congo)	10,150
Paricutin (Mexico)	9,000
Asama (Japan)	8,200
Heckla (Iceland)	5,100
Kilaauea (Hawaii)	4,090
Vesuvius (Italy)	3,700
Stromboli (Lipari Is)	3,000

Dorment	*feet*
Cotopaxi (Ecuador)	19,600
Demavend (Iran)	18,600
Semerou (Java)	12,050
Halcakala (Hawaii)	10,032
Guntur (Java)	7,300
Krakatoa (Sunda Strait)	2,600

Extint	
Aconcagua (Chile)	22,976
Chimborazo (Equador)	20,500
Kilimanjaro (Tanganyika)	19,340
Antisana (Equador)	18,850
Elburz (Caucasus)	18,526
Popocatapetl (Mexico)	17,520
Orizaba (Mexico)	17,400
Fujiyama (Japan)	12,395

LARGE ISLANDS

	Sq. Miles
Greenland, *N. Atlantic*	839,782
New Guinea, *Pacific*	231,329
Borneo, *Pacific*	290,285
Baffinland, *Arctic*	231,000
Madagascar, *Indian*	228,589
Sumatra, *Indian*	163,145
Great Britain, *Atlantic*	88,133
Honshu (Japan) *Pacific*	87,500
Celebes, *Indian*	73,000
South Island, N. Z.	58,500
Java, *Indian Ocean*	48,400

	Sq. Miles
North Island, N. Z.	44,500
Cuba, *Atlantic*	44,000
Newfundland, *Atlantic*	42,734
Luzon (Philippines), *Pacific*	40,814
Iceland, *Atlantic*	39,688
Mindanao, *Philippines*	36,906
Ireland, *Atlantic*	31,840
Tasmania, *South of Australia*	26,215
Ceylon, *Indian Ocean*	25,400

PRINCIPAL DESERTS

	Area Sq. Miles
Gobi (*Mongolia, Asia*)	400,000
Sahara (*North Africa*)	3,000,000
Kalahari (Bachuanaland)	200,000
Libyan (*East Sahara*)	650,00
Kizil Kum (*Turkistan, U.S.S.R.*)	90,000
Kara Kum (*Turkistan, U.S.S.R.*)	100,000
Atacama (*North Chile*)	70,000
Talka Makan (*South Sinkiang, China*)	120,000

	Area Sq. Miles
Great Arabian (*most of Arabia*)	500,000
Thar (*N. W. India*)	100,000
Great Australian (*Central and West Australia*	600,000
Nubian (*East Africa*)	100,000
Rab'al Khali (*South-east Arabia*)	250,000
Great Sandy (*N.W. Australia*)	160,000

Syrian (*North Arabia*)	120,000
Nefud (*N. and C. Arabia*) ..	50,000
Colorado (*S. E. California*) ..	30,000
Mohave (*S. E. California*) ..	15,000

GEOGRAPHICAL SURNAMES

Island of pearls—Bahrein (Persian Gulf).
World's lonliest island—Tristan De Cunha (Mid-Atlantic).
Roof of the World—Pamir Plateau.
Holy Land—Palestine.
Island of Cloves—Zanzibar.
Land of White Elephant—Siam.
Empire City—New York.
Pillars of Hercules—Strait of Gibraltar.
Key of the Mediterranean—Gibraltar.
Rose-pink City—Jaipur.
Whiteman's grave—Guinea coast of Africa.
Sugar bowl of the world—Cuba.
Windy City—Chicago.
Venice of the North—Stockholm.
Forbidden City—Lhasa.
Land of Cakes—Scotland.
China's Sorrow—Hoang Ho.
Gate of tears—Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb.
Pearl of the Antilles—Cuba.
The Corridor—A strip of land in Poland separating Germany from East Prussia.
Granite City—Aberdeen.
Eternal City—Rome.
Gift of the Nile—Egypt.
Land of the Midnight Sun—Norway.
Land of Morning Calm—Korea.
Hermit Kingdom—Korea.
Playground of Europe—Switzerland.
City of Seven Hills—Rome.
Land of Rising Sun—Japan.
Dark Continent—Africa.
Emerald Isle—Ireland.
Land of Maple—Canada.
Land of Five Rivers—The Punjab.
Gateway of India—Bombay.
City of Palaces—Calcutta.
Land of Golden Fleece—Australia.
City of Sky-Scrapers—New York.
Cockpit of Europe—The Balkans.
Land of Thousand Lakes—Finland.
City of Magnificent Distances—Washington D.C.
Bengal's sorrow—Damodar.
Never Never land—Vast prairies of northern Australia.
Queen of the Adriatic—Venice.
The Down Under—Australia.

LONGEST TUNNELS

	Miles
Tanna, *Japan* ..	13½
Simplon, *Swiss-Italian Frontier* ..	12¾
Appennines ..	11½
Loetschbeg, *Switzerland* ..	9¼
St. Gothard, *Swiss-Italian Frontier* ..	9⅛
Mont Cenis, *France* ..	8
Arlberg, *Tyrol* ..	6½
Moffat (*Colorado*) ..	6·1

MOUNTAIN PASSES

Alpine (Colorado, U.S.A.)	13,550
Bolan (Baluchistan) ..	5,880
Brenner (Austrian Alps)	4,588
Khybar (Afghanistan)	3,373
St. Bernard (Swiss Alps)	8,100
St. Gotthard (Swiss Alps)	6,936
Shipka (Bulgaria) ..	4,300
Simplon (Swiss Alps) ..	6,595

FAMOUS CAVES AND CAVERNS

Mamoth Cave (Kentucky, U.S.) 4 m. long 125 ft. high.
Caverns of Adelsburg (Trieste).
Carlsbad Caverns, S. W. New Mexico.
Cheddar Cave (Somerset).
Fingal's Cave (Scotland).
Blue Grotto (Island of Capri, Italy).

FAMOUS CANALS

	Length in miles
Dortmund-Ems (Germany) 1899 ..	170
Baltic-White Sea (U.S.S.R.) 1933 ..	141
Suez (Egypt) 1869 ..	105
Albert (Belgium) 1939 ..	81
Moscow-Volga (U.S.S.R.) 1937 ..	80
Kiel (Germany) 1895 ..	61
Caledonia (Scotland) 1822	55
Gota (Sweden) 1832 ..	50
Panama (Panama Canal-zone) 1914 ..	50
Houston (Texas) 1925 ..	48
Rhine-Amsterdam-North sea (Netherlands & Germany) 1952 ..	45
Beoumont-Port Arthur (Texas) 1916 ..	40
Elbe-Trave (Germany) 1900	40
Manchester (England) 1894	36
Welland (Canada) 1931 ..	25
Leningrad-Kronshtadt (U.S.S.R.) 1890 ..	16
Chesapeake and Delware (U.S.A.) ..	18
Lake Washington (Washington) ..	8
Cape Cod (U.S.) ..	8

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD-BREAKERS

Highest Mountain System	Himalayas.
Longest Mountain System	Andes.
Highest Plateau ..	Tibet.
Longest River ..	Mississippi-Missouri, 4,502 miles long.
Largest River (in volume)	Amazon.
Largest River Basin ..	Basin of Amazon, 2,720,800 sq. miles.
Largest Salt Water Lake	Caspian Sea.
Largest Fresh Water Lake	Superior.
Largest group of Islands	Malaya Archipelago.
Largest Artifical Lake ..	Lake Mead at Boulder Dam (U.S.A.).
Largest north to south stretch of land ..	America: N. and S. extend from Arctic to the Antarctic Ocean.
Largest inland sea ..	Mediterranean Sea.
Largest ship canal ..	Baltic White Sea Canal, 142 miles long.
Deepest Ocean ..	Pacific Ocean.
Highest Auto Road ..	Mount Evans Highway (Colorado, U.S.A.).
Highest Capital City ..	La Paz (Bolivia).

Largest Island	Greenland, 846,740 sq. miles.
Densest population	Monaco (33,898 per sq. mile).
Hottest Region	North-west Sahara, Azizia (Tripolitania), Death Valley (California), and Thar Desert of North-west India.
Coldest Regions	Verkoyansk in North-East Siberia where temperature is 90° below zero.
Largest Continent	Asia.
Largest Peninsula	India.
Highest Country	Tibet.
Biggest Ocean	Pacific Ocean.
Most northerly Town	Hemmerfest, Norway, 275 miles north of Arctic circles.
Largest Desert	Sahara (Africa).
Largest City	London (Population, 8,346,000).
Highest Peak	Mt. Everest (29,002 ft.).
Densely Populated Country	China.
Rainiest Place	Cherrapunji (Assam).
Largest Volcano	Mauna Loa (crater 12,400 ft.), Largest Volcanic Mt. in cubic content.
Highest Volcano	Kotopaksi (Andes) 19,334 ft.
Smallest Continent	Australia.
Deepest Lake	Lake Baikal (Siberia).
Highest Lake	Lake Titicaca (Bolivia, 12,000 ft. above sea).
Saltiest Sea	Dead Sea.
Smallest Independent State	Vatican City (109 acres).
Largest State	U.S.S.R.
Largest Delta	Sundarban delta (8,000 sq. miles).
Longest Thoroughfare	Broadway, New York.
Highest City	Phari, Tibet, altitude 14,300 ft.
Largest coral formation	Great Barrier Reef, (Australia).
Lowest body of water	Dead Sea.
Deepest place in the ocean	Off the Island of Mindanao, Philippines sounding of 35,410 ft. reached.

WORLD EXTREMES OF CLIMATE

Coldest Place—Verkoyansk (Siberia)—94°F (126° below freezing point) on Jan. 3, 1885.

Hottest Place—Azizia (Llbya)—136°F (Sept. 13, 1922) and Death Valley (California)—134°F. (July 10, 1913).

Minimum recorded Rainfall—.04 inch at Iquique, Chile—average yearly fall during 40 years.

Highest mean annual temperature—86°F at Massawa, Eritrea, Africa.

Lowest mean annual temperature—14°F at Framheim, Antarctica.

Wettest Place—366 inches in one month at Cherrapunji, Assam, July, 1861. Average annual rainfall is 424 and 499 inches.

FAMOUS WATERFALLS

Name and location	*Height ft.*	*Name and location*	*Height ft.*
Angel (Venezula) ..	3,300	Middle Cascade (Cali) ..	910
Tugela (Natal, S. Africa)	2,810	Multnomach (U.S.A.) ..	850
Krimmler (Ger.) ..	2,085	Vettisfos (Norway) ..	850
Kukenaam (Br. Guinea)	2,000	King Edward VII (Br. Guinea) ..	840
Southerland (S. Island, N.Z.) ..	1,904	Gersoppa (Mysore) ..	830
Ribbon (California) ..	1,612	Kaieteur (Br. Guinea) ..	741
Gavarnie (France) ..	1,385	Kalambo (Tanganyika)	705
Takkakaw (Br. Columbia)	1,200	Fairly (America) ..	700
Staubbach (Switzerland)	980	Maradalefos (Norway) ..	650
Trummelbach (Switzerland) ..	950	Skykkjefos (Norway) ..	650
		Terni (Italy) ..	650

POLAR RECORDS

Arctic

Year	*Explorer*	*No.*	*Latitude*
1854	E. K. Kane (U.S.A.)	78°	45′
1871	Capt. Hall (U.S.A.)	82°	11′
1875	Capt. Nares (G.B.)	83°	20′
1882	Lieut. Greely (U.S.A.)	83°	24′
1892	Lieut. Peary (U.S.A.)	83°	27′
1895	Fridtjof Nansen (Norway)	86°	14′
1900	Duke d' Abruzzi (Italy)	86°	34′
1902	Lieut. Peary (U.S.A.)	84°	17′
1904	Zeigler Polar Expedition (U.S.A.)	82°	4′
1906	Commander Peary (U.S.A.)	87°	6′
1909	Commander Peary (U.S.A.)	90° (Pole)	..
1926	Commander Byrd (U.S.A.)*	90° (Pole)	..
1926	Amundsen-Ellsworth-Nobile†	90° (Pole)	..
1928	Gen. U. Nobile † (Italy)	90° (Pole)	..
1937	Pavel Golvin. (*Soviet Russia*)*	90° (Pole)	..
1937	Otto J. Schmidt and four others* (Soviet Russia)	90° (Pole)	..
1937-8	Sir H. Wilkins	88°	..
1952	Lt. Col. Benedict (U.S.A.F.)	90° (Pole)	..

Antarctic

Year	*Explorer*	*No.*	*Latitude*
1774	Capt. Cook (G.B.)	71°	10′
1823	Capt. Weddell (G.B.)	74°	15′
1842	Capt. Rose (G.B.)	78°	10′
1900	Borchgrevink (G.B.)	78°	50′
1902	Capt. Robert F. Scott (G.B.)	82°	17′

* By airplane.
† By airship.

1909	Lieut. Shackleton (G.B.)	88°		23′
1911	Roald Amundsen (Norway)	90°	(Pole)	..
1912	Capt. Robert F. Scott (G.B.)	90°	(Pole)	..
1935	L. Ellsworth* (U.S.A.)	76-79		58
1947	Adml. Richard Byrd* (U.S.A.)	90	(Pole)	..

FIRST ASCENTS OF MOUNTAINS

Mont. Blanc (France-Italy), M. G. Paccard & J. Balmat, 1786.

Jungfrau (Switzerland), J. R. & H. Meyer, 1811.

Matterhorn (Switzerland), E. Whymper, 1865.

Elbruz (Caucasus), D. W. Freshfield, A. W. Moore, & C. C. Tucker, 1868.

Chimborazo (Ecuador), E. Whymper, 1880.

Mt. Cook (New Zealand), W. S. Green, 1882.

Kilimaijaro (Kenya), Hans Meyer, 1887.

Aconcagua (Chile-Argentine), M. Zurbriggen, 1897.

Mt. St. Elias (Alaska), Duke of Abruzzi, 1897.

Mt. Kenya (Kenya), H. J. Macinder, 1899.

Ruwenzori (Central Africa), Duke of Abruzzi, 1906.

Mt. McKinley (Alaska), Parker-Browne Expdt.

Mt. Lagan (Alaska), A. H.

Mt. Logan (Alaska), A. H. McCarthy, 1925.

Illampu (Bolivia), German-Austrian Expedition.

K^2 (*Godwin Austen*, Karakoram), Italian Expedition, 1954.

Everest (Nepal), British Expedition, 1953.

NATURAL WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Volcanoes—World's two largest volcanoes are in Equador in South America: *Chimborazo*, 20,702 ft. and *Cotopaxi*, 19,344 ft.

Geysers—The greatest development of Geysers is in Iceland, New Zealand and Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, U.S.A. The most famount gayser of Yellowstone Park is *Old Faithful* which spouts a column of water 140 ft. regularly every 63 minutes. There are altogether 120 named geysers in Yellowstone.

Waterfalls—Highest waterfall in the world is *Angel* in Venezuela which has a total height of 3,300 ft. The second largest waterfall in the world is *Tugela* 2,810 ft. in Br. Guinea in northern South America.

Canyons—The most impressive canyon in the world is *Grand Canyon* of the Colorado River, U.S.A. and extends for 217 miles with a width on the rim from 4 to 18 miles. The canyon reaches a maximum depth of about 5,500 feet below the surrounding plateau.

Caverns—*Mammoth Cave*, the largest underground cavern in the world is located in central Kentucky, U.S.A. and it extends for 10 miles with 150 miles of connected passages. *Blue Grotto*—on the island of Capri, Italy is a famous cavern hollowed out in limestone by constant wave action.

Glaciers—The principal glacial areas are in the Antarctic, Greenland, nearly all the high mountain ranges and many of the islands in the Arctic region. The largest glaciers in the world are found in Greenland and the Arctic as well as Antarctic regions.

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*By airplane.

Deserts—Largest desert is the *Sahara* in northern Africa covering an area of about 3,000,000 sq. m. with a maximum altitude of 9,000 feet.

Mountains—The loftiest peak in the world is *Mount Everest,* 29,002 ft. in height in Himalaya mountains in Nepal.

Lakes—*Lake Superior* is the largest fresh water lake in the world. *Lake Victoria* (Africa) is the second largest lake in the world.

Oceans—*Pacific Ocean* is the largest single body of water on the surface of the globe and reaches the maximum depth of 35,410 ft. near the Island of Mindanao in the Phillippines.

Gulf Stream—is a warm ocean current that originates near the Gulf of Mexico and flows north along the eastern coast of United States, then across the Atlantic Ocean, passing near Great Britain and the Scandinavian Peninsula and ending in the Arctic Ocean. Japanese current is the 'gulf stream' of the Pacific Ocean having its origin in the China Sea. This stream becomes the California Current and warms the north-western shores of the United States.

FAMOUS STRUCTURES OF THE WORLD

Pyramids of Egypt—Located on the west bank of the Nile River and extends for about 60 miles south of Gizeh, they were built during the period from 3500 B.C. to 18 B.C. to contain tombs of Pharaohs. The largest of the pyramids erected by the Cheops rises 450 ft. above the desert. It is 746 ft. square at the base and occupies almost 13 acres.

Great Sphinx of Egypt—A stone image of a crouching lion with a human head, at Gizeh in northern Egypt and carved about 3500 B.C. The total height of Sphinx is about 66 ft., its body is 189 ft. in length.

Mausoleum of Halicarnassus—A marble tomb built in 352 B.C. at Halicarnassus in Asia Minor by Queen Artemisia for her husband Mausolus. It was 140 ft. high and was destroyed by earthquake between 12th and 15th centuries.

Hunging Gardens of Babylon—Terraced gardens planted by King Nebuchadnezzar about 655 B.C. in Bagdad in Iraq.

Statue of Zeus at Olympia—A statue carved by Phidias in the 4th century B.C. It was placed in the temple of Olympus in south-western Greece where all who attended the Olympic games might pay homage to Zeus, King of the Greek deities.

Alhambra—A group of buildings erected chiefly between 1948 and 1354 by the Moorish King Al Ahmar and his successors on a hill above Granada in southern Spain. It is claimed to be the crowning achievement of the Moors in Spain.

Pantheon—At Rome was built in 27 B.C. It was used as temple. Literally *Pantheon* was intended as a temple of "all the Gods".

Temple of Diana at Ephesus—A monument of brightly coloured marble, designed by Stesiphon and built by the Ionians in the 5th centry B.C. at the now-vanished city of Ephesus, south of Smyrna in western Asia Minor. The temple was 425 ft. in length and 225 ft. wide. It was burnt in 356 B.C.

Porcelain Tower of Nankin—An eightesided pagoda 261 feet in height erected in the 15th century by a Chinese King in eastern China. It contained eight or nine stories. It was destroyed in 1853..

Leaning Tower of Pisa—A round white marble bell-tower at Pisa, Italy and containing eight stories enclosed by columns. The tower leans about 14 feet out of the perpendicular, its height being 181 feet on the north side and 179 feet on the south side. It was built in 1350.

Stonehenge—A monument of huge stones forming three circles, supposed to be erected by a Celtic race of sun-worshippers 4,000 years ago at Salisbury Plain 90 miles from London.

Parthenon of Greece—built on the Acropolis in Athens, was the chief temple to the goddess Athena. It was believed to have been completed by 438 B.C. Though the Parthenon is in ruins, its majestic proportions are still discernible.

Great Wall of China—A wall of about 1,500 miles long extending along the boundary between northern China and Mongolia. It was begun in the 3rd century.

Great Buddhist Temple of Java—A monument of Buddhist architecture, known as *Boro Budor* and built of volcanic lava in the 9th or 8th century in Java. It shows architecture and sculpture of grandeur.

Acropolis at Athens—A hill about 260 feet in height located in south-eastern Greece. At the summit are ruins of numerous temples originally enclosed by Doric and Ionic columns and built of marble by Pericles and Cimon in the 5th century B.C. The most notable of these structures include *Parthenon* which contained a gold and ivory statue of Athena.

St. Peter's at Rome—The largest Cathedral in the world covering an area of 18,000 square yards and located in Rome, Italy. It was completed in 1632. The Cathedral's greatest length is 636 feet, its height is 435 feet.

Mayan Temples—Buildings erected by the Mayan Indians who attained a high civilization before the birth of Christ. The temples, now in ruins were built on lofty pyramid-shaped terraces and were frequently ornamented with columns in the form of feathered snakes.

Mosque of Santa Sophia—A building located at Istanbul in northern Turkey and erected by Emperor Justinian in 6th century. The Turkish Sultan Mohammed II made the structure a mosque after conquering the city in 1453.

Colosseum of Rome—The largest and most famous of Roman amphitheatres, 1,680 feet in circumference located at Rome. The Colosseum could accommodate 80,000 spectators at a single performance and was 157 feet high containing an area 285 feet long and 182 feet wide. It was built in about 80 A.D.

Potala of Tibet—The fortress-palace of Dalai Lama, the ruler of Tibet. The structure is over 900 feet in length and resembles a fortress with many gilded roofs and towers at various levels—the highest being more than 400 feet from the ground.

Shawe Dagon Pagoda—A gilded bells-haped structure at Rangoon containing eight hairs of Buddha. Its base is 1,355 feet in circumference and the top is encased with gold leaf supporting 1,500 little bells of silver and gold. It is 367 feet high.

Taj Mahal—A domed square mausoleum of white marble at Agra in India built during the period from 1630 to 1649 by Emperor Shah Jahan as a burial place for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. Tajmahal is the perfect gem of Moslem art.

Colossus of Mysore—A statue of 60 feet in height representing Gomateswara, a saint of the Jain religion. It was carved in 983 A.D. from a solid rock on a hill top that rises 470 feet above a plain in Mysore. The image is 26 feet broad at the shoulders and stands on a circular platform.

Angkor Vat—A structure 796 ft. long and 588 feet wide in a city in Cambodia, French Indo-China, comprising a royal city of 59 sq. miles area and temple Angkor Vat. Built in 9th century by the Khmers, the enclosed temples, palaces and public building of stone are completely covered with sculptured scenes which picture life of Khmer civilization now extinct. The largest of five pagoda rises 250 feet above foundations at the centre of the temple.

Empire State Building—in New York is the tallest building of the world, 1,250 ft. high in 102 stories. The building was completed in 1931.

GENERAL INFORMATION

LONGEST RAILWAY STATION PLATFORMS

	feet
ne (India) ..	2,415
aragpur (India) ..	2,330
ulawayo (Rhodesia) ..	2,302
ew Lucknow (India) ..	2,250
Bezwada (India) ..	2,210
Manchester Victoria Exchange (L.M.S.) ..	2,194
Jhansi (India) ..	2,025
Kotri (N.W.R., Pakistan)	1,896
Mandalay (Burma Railways) ..	1,788
Bournemouth (England)	1,734
Perth (Scotland) ..	1,714
York (England) ..	1,704
Cambridge (Eng.) ..	1,629
Edinburgh (Scotland) ..	1,608
Aberdeen (Scotland) ..	1,596
Trichinopoly (India) ..	1,546
Ranaghat (India) ..	1,522
Crewe (England) ..	1,509
Dakor (India) ..	1,470
Victoria (England) ..	1,430
New Castle (England) ..	1,365
Bristol (England) ..	1,300

FAMOUS BRIDGES

Name	*Type*	*Length of channel span (feet)*
olden Gate (U.S.A.) ..	Suspension ..	4,200
eorge Washington (U.S.A.) ..	Do. ..	3,500
acoma Narrows (U.S.A.) ..	Do. ..	2,[illegible]10
ronx-Whitestone (U.S.A.) ..	Do. ..	2,300